PSCI 4505A
Transitions to Democracy
Monday 11:35 to 14:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Supanai Sookmark
Office: B647 Loeb
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 14:35-15:35
Phone: 613-520-2600 ext. 4129 (no voicemail)
Email: supanai.sookmark@carleton.ca

Course Description: This course examines the political, economic, social, institutional, and external factors that undermine and support the process of democratization largely in developing countries. It is designed to familiarize students with theoretical approaches to democratization, various paths of political development, and the challenges facing developing countries in democratic transition and consolidation. By the end of the semester, students should develop critical knowledge of the course’s subject matters, deepen their knowledge and understanding on certain areas or issues of democratization through their individual research project, and be able to extend their understanding to assess the contemporary political development in countries of their own interest.

Textbooks: There are no required textbooks for this course. Most readings, which are from journal articles, can be accessed either through ARES, cuLearn, and the MacOdrum Library’s electronic journals. Those that are drawn from books are available in the reserves section in the library.

Course Format: Weekly seminars are held from 11:25 to 14:25. Except for the first week, which is an introductory session, each seminar consists of a brief introduction by the instructor, short presentations of the required readings by designated students, a brain-storming session for seminar themes and questions, and class discussion. The instructor may introduce different discussion formats and other class activities occasionally to complement the weekly seminar.

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated based on their seminar participation, two small reaction papers, and one research paper. Marks are assigned as follows.

Seminar participation 25%
Reaction papers 30% (15% each)
Research paper (due Dec.7) 45% (Proposal due Nov. 9)

Participation: Seminar participation will be evaluated based on 1) attendance (5%), 2) a weekly seminar assignment (10%), and 3) good-quality and active contribution to class discussions (10%).
1) **Attendance** is mandatory as it is an important element of a seminar. Students should try not to miss any classes without a legitimate reason. The instructor should be informed (preferably in advance) of individual absence.

2) A **weekly seminar assignment** includes 1) a short presentation (no more than 15 minutes per person) of the required readings (to be divided between the presenters). This presentation should not be a detailed summary but a brief outline of the authors’ thesis, main arguments, and evidence. After this, the presenters will go on to give a short critical evaluation of the articles. 2) The presenters will also prepare a number of discussion questions to be used in the seminar and 3) be ready to respond to questions about the readings and the topic from the class. A written version of the presentation and discussion questions will be submitted to the instructor. Finally, 4) the presenters will play a leading role during the brainstorming and discussion session, including collecting questions from the class and write up seminar topics and questions on the board, and lead class discussion. Students will be asked to sign up for this weekly assignment during the first class.

3) **Good-quality and active contribution** should reflect students’ knowledge and critical understanding of the reading materials and their enthusiasm to participate in a seminar. Accordingly, it is mandatory to complete all required readings and give them a careful thought before coming to class in order to be ready to contribute to the discussion. Students are also encouraged to bring questions with regard to the weekly readings to class to add to the seminar agenda and discussion.

**Reaction Papers:** Students will write two short (4-5 pages, double-spaced) papers on two of the weekly topics of their choice. The paper should focus on one (or more) key issue(s) discussed in the weekly readings. The objective is to analyze and provide an argument (not simply summarize) on how the issue(s) in question is addressed by the authors. Your reaction may include your agreement and/or disagreement with the views presented in the readings, an evaluation of the ideas or policy discussed and their relevance in today’s context, or a critique on the bias of the author(s), etc. The most important thing is to elaborate your arguments coherently and convincingly. Evaluation will be based on your ability to present a critical and sound analysis that demonstrates that you have carefully and critically thought about the readings and the issue(s) at hand. Good organization and ability to write persuasively and coherently are also expected in a good paper. The assignment does not require consulting other sources aside from the required readings. It is **due the following week in class** after the selected topic has been discussed. To receive early feedback, students are strongly encouraged to write their first reaction paper no later than week 6.

**Research Paper:** Students will write a longer research paper (15-17 pages, double-spaced) based on a topic directly related to the themes and issues of the course. The due date is **December 7 (last seminar)**. Students are required to submit a proposal (1-2 pages) for their paper (which includes a topic, background information or debate, tentative arguments, and preliminary and potential sources of reference) to be approved by the instructor as soon as possible but no later than **November 9**. The research paper will be graded based on the quality of research, critical and coherent thesis, well-substantiated arguments and evidence, and good writing and organization.
Paper Submission and Late Paper Policy: All assignments (hard copies) must be submitted to the instructor in class on the due date. Late papers are to be put in the drop box of the Political Science Department (located outside B640 Loeb Building—note that only papers submitted by 4 p.m. are date-stamped with that day’s date). Late assignments will be penalized by half a letter grade per day (from B to B-).

Seminar Topics and Readings:

There may be changes in the required readings upon the instructor’s discretion.

Week 1 (Sep. 4) Introduction

Sep. 7 Statutory Holiday—No class

I Concepts and Paths of Democracy

Week 2 (Sep. 14) Concepts of Democracy

Required


Supplementary


**Week 3 (Sep. 21)  Paths of Global Democratization**

**Required**


Access through cuLearn


**Supplementary**


**II  Understanding Processes of Democratization**

**Week 4 (Sep. 28)  Democratic Transitions**

**Required**


**Supplementary**

337-363.

**Week 5 (Oct. 5) Democratic Consolidation**

*Required*


*Supplementary*


**Oct. 12 Statutory Holiday—No class**

**III Challenges to Democratization**

**Week 6 (Oct. 19) Development and Democracy**

*Required*


Supplementary

Oct. 26-30 Fall Break—No Class

Week 7 (Nov. 2) Civil Society

Required
Supplementary


Week 8 (Nov. 9) Social Division
--Research Paper Proposal Due--

Required


Supplementary


Week 9 (Nov. 16) Democratic Institutions, the Military, and Rule of Law
**Required**


**Supplementary**


**Week 10 (Nov. 23)  Building Democracy from Conflict**

**Required**


Supplementary


IV International Linkage

Week 11 (Nov. 30) Effects of Globalization and External Pressures

*Required*


*Supplementary*


Week 12 (Dev. 7) Democracy Promotion

--Research Paper Due--

*Required*

Carl Gershman and Michael Allen, “The Assault on Democracy Assistance,” *Journal of*

Supplementary


Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.
**Plagiarism:** The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day’s date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

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**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Course Requirements:** Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Connect Email Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

**Carleton Political Science Society:** The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.