

**Antalya Bilim University**  
**Department of Political Science and International Relations, POLS 401**  
**Comparative Democracy**  
**Fall 2019**

Class Time: Mondays 11:30-12:50  
Wednesdays 15:30-16:50

Office Hours: Mondays 13:30-14:30 and Tuesdays 11:00-12:00

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(A2-19)

This course focuses on the theoretical and conceptual debates surrounding the concept of democracy and the process of democratization. It is also about the current state of democracy and the major theoretical and practical challenges to democracy. The first part of the course introduces students to the canons of democracy studies. We begin with discussions on liberal democracy and its economic and social prerequisites. The second part analyzes the different empirical approaches to the study of democracy. We cover the measurement of democracy and current discussions on different regime types such as democratic, competitive authoritarian/ hybrid, and authoritarian regimes. This is followed by debates surrounding the demise of democracy and the challenges to theories of democratization. The last part of the course critically deliberates the regional and country level experiences with democratic rule. Case studies from Africa, Middle East, Russia and Central Asia guide the discussions in this part.

**Course Readings**

Readings will be emailed and/or posted to the UBS student course page each week. Please make sure to logon daily to access the readings as well as announcements made regarding class. You may also check the ABU Library's database and electronic databases for the readings.

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism is a type of intellectual theft. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement. You will be subject to disciplinary action and punishment if you are caught plagiarizing.

**Assessment Criteria:**

- 1) Attendance & Participation (%10): Attendance is compulsory in this course. Students who miss more than %70 of the course fail the course automatically (FX).** Students are expected to come to class prepared and actively participate in the weekly discussions. Your grade is comprised of both attendance and participation.

- 2) **Country Brief (5%):** During weeks 5 to 7, as we cover regime classifications and hybrid regimes, each student pair will conduct a 10-minute presentation on “the state of democracy” in a country of their choice. You will be asked to choose a particular dataset, study how levels of democracies are calculated, and read the analysis (country report) of the country. You should present specifics such as the “scores” of the “dimensions of democracy” for your country as well as an overall picture of the state of democracy in the country.
- 3) **In-Class Reaction Papers (15%):** You will write a total of 4 in-class reaction papers. At the beginning of class, you will write a reaction to 1-2 questions posed to you regarding the readings. This will give students an opportunity to evaluate the readings and prepare for class discussion. The reaction papers will address specific and broad questions on the assigned readings and ask you to share your ideas on the articles. Students will then be asked to share their reactions during class discussion. The highest 3 will comprise 15% of your grade.
- 4) **Mid-term Exam (30%):** Students will have one mid-term exam which will be based on all the course material we cover until the exam date.
- 5) **Final Exam (40%):** Students will have one final exam at the end of the semester. The majority of the final exam questions will be based on the course material we cover after the midterm exam.

## Course Schedule

### **Week 1 Introduction**

- Course Overview. Syllabus.
- Please read and keep a copy of the syllabus. You are responsible for the content of the syllabus.

### **Week 2 Defining democracy**

- Schmitter, Philippe & Karl, Terry Lynn. “What democracy is...and is not?” *Journal of Democracy*, Summer (1991): 3-16.
- Huntington, Samuel. “Democracy’s Third Wave” *Journal of Democracy* 2, no.2 (1991): 12-34.

### **Week 3 Economic and social prerequisites of democracy**

- Grugel, Jean. “Chapter 3: Theories of Democratization” in *Democratization: A Critical Introduction* (2002) pg. 46-56.
- Maloney, William A. and Stevenson, Linda. “Social Capital” in *Democratic Politics* ed. Roland Axtmann (2003) pg. 187-195.
- Berman, Sheri. “Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic.” *World Politics* 49, no.3 (1997): 401-429.

### **Week 4 Transitions to democracy**

- Geddes, Barbara. “What do we know about democratization after twenty years?” *Annual Review of Political Science*, no.2 (1999): 115-144.
- Valerie Bunce, “Rethinking Recent Democratization: Lessons from the Postcommunist Experience,” *World Politics*, 2003, Vol.55, No.2, pp.167-192.

### **Week 5 Regime classifications /Hybrid regimes**

- Collier, David and Levitsky, Steven. "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research." *World Politics* 49, no.3 (1997): 430-451.
- Levitsky, Steven & Way, Lucan. "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy* 13, no.2 (2002): 51-65.

### **Week 6 Regime classifications**

- On-line datasets & analyses: V-Dem  
Freedom House: <https://freedomhouse.org/>  
Polity IV: <http://www.systemicpeace.org/polityproject.html>  
IDEA: <http://www.idea.int/sod-assessments/>
- Student Country Brief presentations.

### **Week 7 The decline of democracy?**

- Plattner, Marc. "Is democracy in decline?" *Journal of Democracy* 26, no.1 (2015): 5-10.
- Diamond, Larry. "Facing up to the democratic recession." *Journal of Democracy* 26, no.1 (2015): 141-155.
- Carothers, Thomas (2002). "The End of the Transition Paradigm" *Journal of Democracy* 13(1): 5-21

### **Week 8 Midterm Exam**

- **No class**

### **Week 9 Africa**

- Bratton, Micheal & Van de Welle, Nicolas. "Neopatrimonial Regimes and Political Transitions in Africa." *World Politics* 46, no.4 (1994): 453-489.
- <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/africa/2019-01-17/retreat-african-democracy>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-46971250>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/datablog/2016/feb/25/democracy-in-african-countries-five-myths-explored>

### **Week 10 Middle East**

- Diamond, Larry. "Why are there no Arab democracies?" *Journal of Democracy* 21, no.1 (2010): 93-104.
- Bellin, Eva. "Reconsidering the robustness of authoritarianism in the Middle East: Lessons from the Arab Spring." *Comparative Politics* 44, no.2 (2012): 127-149.
- Massoud, Tarek. "Has the door closed on Arab democracy?" *Journal of Democracy* 26, no.1 (2015): 74-87.
- <https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/opinion-eight-years-arab-spring-there-hope-middle-east-democracy>

### **Week 11 Russia**

- Koesel, Karrie & Bunce, Valerie. "Putin, popular protests, and political trajectories in Russia: A comparative perspective." *Post-Soviet Affairs* 28, no.4 (2012): 403-423.
- Fish, M. Steven. "The Kremlin Emboldened: What is Putinism?" *Journal of Democracy* 28, no.4 (2017): 61-75.
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-49305129>
- <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/how-make-russia-great-again-71931>

### **Week 12 Central and Eastern Europe**

- Rupnik, Jacques. "The Crisis of Liberalism." *Journal of Democracy*, 29 No. 3 (2018): 24–38.
- Przybylski, Wojciech. "Can Poland's Backsliding Be Stopped?" *Journal of Democracy* 29, no.3 (2018): 52-64.
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/30/poland-democratic-spring-fightback-citizens>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jun/20/viktor-orban-democracy-hungary-eu-funding>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/25/world/europe/hungary-democracy-orban.html>

### **Week 13 The Populist Challenge**

- Galston, William A. "The Populist Challenge to Liberal Democracy" *Journal of Democracy*, 29, No.2 (2018): 5-19.
- Mounk, Yascha. "The Undemocratic Dilemma" *Journal of Democracy*, 29, No.2 (2018): 98-112.

### **Week 14 Review and Discussion**