

Conor O'Dwyer  
CPO 4731  
MWF 11:45-12:35 in Anderson 134

## Democratization in Comparative Perspective

Office Hours in 311 Anderson:

M 12:40-1:40; W 12:40-1:40 & 2:45-3:45; and by appointment

### Description

Why do some authoritarian political regimes initiate transitions to democracy? Why do these transitions succeed in some cases but not others? Does democratization mean different things in different geographical and historical contexts? These are the questions at the heart of this course. After laying out a preliminary framework for analyzing democratization, we will examine the different "waves" of democratization in the modern world -- in particular, the "third wave" of democratization after World War II and the recent wave of regime change in the post-Communist world. We conclude with an examination of the Arab Spring.

### Requirements

- Attendance (10% of grade).

-One unexcused absence over the course of the semester is allowed; after that, unexcused absences count against your attendance grade. Excused absences do not count against your grade, but these require prior consultation with the instructor. According to the Office of the University Registrar, "acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused." For further information about the University of Florida's attendance policy, please see the current Undergraduate Catalogue (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html>).

- Participation in class discussion and other activities (10% of grade),

- 2 tests (30% of grade each -- October 5 and December 2)

- Final paper (20% of grade),

-A paper of 1,500 words maximum (about 5-6 pages) on a topic relevant to the issues discussed in the course will be due on **December 7th** in class. In addition to submitting a hard copy, everyone must also email me a copy of their paper on December 9th. I will provide a list of suitable paper topics on **October 24th**; however, students are encouraged to develop their own paper topics provided that they first submit their topic proposal to me by **October 17th**. Some outside research will be expected, but I will also expect you to make use of the readings and arguments from the class. (I will go over the precise expectations for the paper in class.) To prevent plagiarism, I will check the papers using Turnitin.com.

Student participation is a very important component of this course. I assume full and active engagement with the readings, lectures, and discussions in the class. In the interests of fairness, there will be no extra credit assignments.

### Policy on Exam Make-Ups

I will only schedule exam make-ups for students who are physically unable to take the exam at the normally scheduled time.

### Grading Scale

	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	E	Below 60
A	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66	
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62	

### Texts

There are three required books, which are available for purchase at the university textbook store:

- Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition* (Yale UP: 1971).
- Samuel Huntington, *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century* (Oklahoma UP: 1991).
- M. Steven Fish, *Democracy Derailed in Russia* (Cambridge UP: 2004)

The rest of the readings will be available on-line through E-RESERVES at the university library (<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/> -- click on the link labeled "Course Reserves"). Accessing E-RESERVES from off campus is \*much\* easier using UF's virtual

private network, which is easy to install on your computer, using these instructions for [OSX](#) and [Windows](#). I expect you to have completed the relevant assigned readings prior to class and to be ready to discuss them. As you will notice below, the readings are grouped by week. The reading schedule below is subject to change depending on the pace of progress and unforeseen scheduling changes. In each class period, I will announce which readings I will expect you to have completed for the next period. Please refer to the online syllabus for the latest version.

[link](#)

## Part I: What is Democracy?

### Week 1 (Aug 22-26): Conceptualizing Democracy

- Course goals and Expectations
- Defining Democracy
- Procedural vs. Substantive Definitions

#### **Readings:**

- Dahl, Chs. 1-2: pp. 1-32.
- Huntington, pp. 3-13, 109-121

### Week 2 (Aug 29-31): The Role of Civil Society

**\*Note: Instructor at conference on September 2nd.**

- Civil Society
- Illiberal Democracy

#### **Readings:**

- Arend Lijphart, "Majority Rule in Theory and Practice, the Tenacity of a Flawed Paradigm," *International Social Science Journal* 44:129 (1991): 483-493. [E-RESERVES]
- Fareed Zakaria, "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy," *Foreign Affairs* (November/December, 1997): 22-43. [E-RESERVES]
- Robert Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," *Journal of Democracy* 6:1(1995): 65-78. [E-RESERVES]

### Sep 5 -- University holiday (NO CLASS)

### Week 3 (Sep 7-9): Alternatives to Democracy

- Varieties of Authoritarianism
- Electoral Authoritarianism

#### **Readings:**

- Huntington, pp. 109-121.
- Andreas Schedler, "The Logic of Electoral Authoritarianism" in *Electoral Authoritarianism: The Dynamics of Unfree Competition* (Lynne Rienner: 2006), pp. 1-23. [E-RESERVES]

## Part II: Democratization: Classical Approaches

### Week 4 (Sep 12-16): Socioeconomic Structure

- Economic Development
- Social inequality
- Modernization Theory

#### **Readings:**

- Dahl, chs. 4-6, pp. 48-104.

#### **Additional Readings for the Curious:**

- Adam Przeworski and Fernando Limongi, "Modernization: Theories and Facts," *World Politics* 49:2 (1997), pp. 155-183.

### Week 5 (Sep 19-23): The Role of Social Cleavages and Political Beliefs

- Cross-cutting vs. segmenting cleavages
- Ethnic heterogeneity

- The role of political beliefs

**Readings:**

- Dahl, ch. 7, pp. 105-123.
- Dahl, ch. 8, pp. 124-188.

**Week 6 part 1 (Sep 26): The "Resource Curse"**

- The resource curse

**Readings:**

- Michael L. Ross, "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?", *World Politics* 53:3 (2001): 325-361. [E-RESERVES]

**Part III: Democratization Without Prerequisites? The Third Wave**

**Week 6 part 2 (Sep 28-30): Theorizing the Third Wave**

- Chronology of waves of democratization
- Causes of the Third Wave
- The international dimension of democratization
- Reconsidering the importance of structural factors

**Readings:**

- Huntington, pp. 13-72.

**Week 7 (Oct 3-7): Test**

- Catch-up and Review for 1st Test (Oct 3)
- 1st Test (Wednesday, Oct 5)**
- Typology of transition paths: part 1

**Readings:**

- Huntington, pp. 72-100 (after the test).

**Week 8 (Oct 10-12): Mechanisms and Processes of Regime Change in the Third Wave**

- Signature traits of Third Wave democratization
- How the Third Wave was different

**Readings:**

- Huntington, pp. 101-207.

**Oct 14 -- University holiday (NO CLASS)**

**Week 9 (Oct 19-23): Democratic Consolidation**

- Problems of democratic consolidation
- Film TBA (On the "Torturer Problem" ): Oct 19
- Film TBA continued: Oct 23
- October 17: Deadline for students to propose topics for the final paper**

**Readings:**

- Huntington, pp. 208-280.

**Week 10 (Oct 24-28): After the Third Wave: What's Next?**

- The future of the third wave
- A critical perspective on Third Wave theorizing
- October 24: Suggested topics for the final paper distributed in class**

**Readings:**

- Huntington, pp. 280-316.
- Michael McFaul, (2002) "The Fourth Wave of Democracy and Dictatorship," *World Politics* Vol. 54 no. 2, pages 212-244.

## **Part IV: (Reverse) Democratization after the Third Wave: Reversed Democratization in Russia**

### **Week 11 (Oct 31-Nov 4): The Case of Russia (I)**

- Democratic Backsliding in Russia
- Russia in International Perspective

#### ***Readings:***

- Fish, chs. 1-2, pp. 1-30.
- Fish, chs. 3-4, pp. 30-113.

### **Week 12 (Nov 7 & 9): The Case of Russia (II)**

- Oil and Democracy Revisited: Russia's Resource Curse?
- Economic factors
- Superpresidentialism

#### ***Readings:***

- Fish, ch. 5, pp. 114-139.
- Fish, chs. 6-8, pp. 139-258.

**Nov 11 -- No Class (University Holiday)**

## **Part V: Brief Reflections on the Arab Spring**

### **Week 13 (Nov 14-18)**

- Concluding Thoughts on Russia
- Reflections on the Arab Spring and the relationship between Islam & democracy

#### ***Readings:***

- Bernard Lewis, "Islam and Liberal Democracy: A Historical Overview," *Journal of Democracy* 7:2 (1996): 52-63 (E-RESERVES]
- Peter Burnell, "Democratisation in the Middle East and North Africa: perspectives from democracy support," *Third World Quarterly* 34:5 (2013): 838-855.
- Michael Ross, "Will Oil Drown the Arab Spring? Democracy and the Resource Curse," *Foreign Affairs*, 90: 5 (2011): 2-7.

### **Week 14 (Nov 21):**

- Final paper work day (Nov 21)

**November 23-25 -- Thanksgiving holidays (NO CLASS)**

### **Week 15 (Nov 28-Dec 2):**

- Contemporary Topics (TBA)
- Catch-up and Review for 2nd Test (Nov 30)
- 2nd Test (Dec 2)**

### **Week 16 (Dec 7):**

- Film: continued

**•Dec 7th -- Final Papers Due, one paper copy in my mailbox in the Political Science Department office and one copy emailed to me.**

## **FINAL NOTES**

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this class, you should contact the Dean of Students Office so that special arrangements can be made to accommodate you. It is your responsibility to do so at the beginning of the semester and to communicate directly with the professor during the first week of classes (or as soon as the disability occurs).

**Honor Code:** Academic dishonesty, including cheating on exams and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Any student engaging in such activities will be dealt with in accordance with University policy. It is your responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism, and what the university policies are.

If you have doubts, we please discuss with the professor immediately. After the infringement is too late. Please refer to the current Undergraduate Catalogue for more information on the Student Honor code (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>). Students who have questions about these policies, should contact the undergraduate advisement center for additional information.