By the spring of 2006, the worldwide spread of democracy seems inexorable. In Latin America, military dictatorships have been replaced almost everywhere by elected civilian leaders. The same phenomenon, albeit less widespread, seems at work in Africa. Fifteen years ago, communist rule collapsed in Eastern Europe, and, in August 1991, it lost its sway in the Soviet Union itself. Communist rule remains in modified form in parts of the former Soviet Union. In a somewhat "purer" form it persists in North Korea, China, Cuba, Laos and Vietnam.

Yet it is too easy to assume the triumph of democracy. Serious questions remain as to how democratic these new systems are. Moreover, it must be remembered that an earlier wave of apparent world democratization after World War I was followed by the replacement of elected civilian governments by military dictatorships in both Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe. In Pakistan several years ago a military coup overthrew the democratically elected government. In Algeria, military leaders cancelled elections which would have brought to power Islamic parties. Leaders of many of the new states formed out of the USSR have postponed presidential elections indefinitely. We may merely be at the democratic phase of what is a cyclical phenomenon.

There is a strong tendency for democratic governance and economic prosperity to co-vary. Since it is clear that the new democracies of both the third world and the former communist world face severe economic difficulties, the stability of their new political systems is open to question. Furthermore, many of these new democracies are ethnically and/or religiously pluralistic, and that, too, seems to be an obstacle to democratic stability. Some scholars insist, as well, on cultural requirements for successful democratization.

Among the central foci of this class will be: debating the strengths and weaknesses of various definitions of democracy, and
assessing the conditions which promote or, conversely, create difficulties for, both the emergence of democracy and its consolidation. We will look at the processes which have brought autocracies to democracy. President Bush, in his 2005 inaugural address, committed the United States to promoting the democratization of the world. We will examine the impact outsiders in general and America in particular can have on the introduction, consolidation, or enhancement of quality of democracy.

Books to Purchase

Thomas Carothers and Marina Ottaway, Uncharted Journey: Promoting Democracy in the Middle East, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2005
Larry Diamond, Developing Democracy Toward Consolidation, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999
Renske Doorenspleet, Democratic Transitions: Exploring the Structural Sources of the Fourth Wave, Lynne Reinner, Jean Grugel, Democratization: a critical introduction, Palgrave, 2002
Samuel P. Huntington, The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century, University of Oklahoma Press, 1991

Additional Required Readings


http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v007/7.1przeworski.html

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/#journal of democracy

Philippe Schmitter, "Clarifying Consolidation," Journal of Democracy, 8:2, April 1997, pp. 168-74,
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/#journal of democracy

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/#journal of democracy

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/#journal of democracy

Writing Assignments

There will be a take-home mid-sem, due Mar. 16, a take-home final, due the day our in-class exam would have been conducted, and a term paper, due two weeks after major class presentations.

Class Presentations/Participation

Each class after the first two will consist of student presentations on the assigned readings. A student will be assigned to each reading. The student will present strengths and weaknesses of the assigned piece. After the presentation, there will be class discussion of the reading. I will provide an e-mail response to each performance after class.

Grading

The final exam and term paper will each count thirty per cent. The mid-sem will count twenty per cent. Thus, presentations and participation will count a significant twenty per cent.
Reading Assignments

Jan. 23 - Introduction: Democracy in the Late 20th Century

Democracy: Competing Definitions

Jan. 25 - Schmitter and Karl; Grugel, Introduction and Ch. 1, Freedom House; Diamond, Ch. 1
Jan. 30 – Huntington, pp. 5-12; Doorenspleet, Ch. 2; Collier and Levitsky

History of Democratization

Feb. 1 – Grugel, Ch. 2; Huntington, pp. 3-4, 13-30

Theories of Its Spread: Preconditions

Feb. 6 – Grugel, pp. 46-56; Huntington, Ch. 2
Feb. 8 – Doorenspleet, Chs. 1 and 3
Feb. 13 – Doorenspleet, Chs. 4-5
Feb. 15 – Doorenspleet, Chs. 6-9
Feb. 20 – Diamond, Ch. 5

Theories of Its Spread: Processes

Feb. 22 – Grugel, pp. 56-68; Huntington, Chs. 3 and 4; McFaul

Obstacles to Democratization: Internally Weak States, Finlandized States, Large States, Ethnic Heterogeneity, and Islam

Feb. 27 – Student Presentations

Consolidating Democracy

Mar. 1 – Schedler; Linz; Huntington, “Democracy for the Long Haul,” Schmitter; Przeworski et al
Mar. 6 – Carothers, “End of...Paradigm;” Diamond, “Hybrid Regimes;” Diamond, “Is the Third Wave Over?” Plattner
Mar. 8 – Diamond and Morlino; Diamond, Chs. 3-4
Mar.13 – Diamond, Chs. 6-7
Mar.15 – Mid-sem Exams Due

Fall Break

Case Studies

Apr. 3 – Grugel, Chs. 7 and 8
Apr. 5 – Grugel, Chs. 9 and 10

Determinants of Non-Democratic Transitions: State Collapse, Reserved Domains, Military Coups, Economic Failures, Non-optimal Institutions, and Corruption

Apr. 10- Student Presentations

Democratic Institutions

Apr. 12 - Grugel, Ch. 4; Shugart;
Apr. 17 – Lijphart; Mainwaring

Promoting Democracy

Apr. 19 – President Bush’s 2005 Inaugural Address; Grugel, Ch. 6
Apr. 24 – Carothers and Ottaway, Introduction and Part 1
Apr. 26 – Carothers and Ottaway, Part 2
May 1 – Carothers and Ottaway, Part 3; Halperin & Lomasney

The Future of Democracy

May 3 - Grugel, Conclusion;
May 8 – Huntington, Chs. 5-6
May 10 – Catch-up
May 13 – Catch-up