POLS 530: Democratization and Regime Change

Spring 2018

Instructor: R. El-Mahdi
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Office: HUSS 2016
Office Hours: W2:00-5:00 or by appointment

The course addresses the academic debate on authoritarianism, regime change, and democratization from theoretical and empirical perspectives. The course critically engages conceptual approaches of regime type analysis, democratic transition and consolidation, and procedural democracy. It also introduces students to other approaches to regime change and democratization, including revolutions and mass politics.

Course Requirements
As an advanced seminar, meaningful participation in class discussions that demonstrates analytical reading of the course material (BEFORE class) is of utmost importance. Each student will choose one week to present the assigned material by providing critical analysis of it, and leading class discussions.

In all cases students should be prepared to answer questions and participate in discussions as it can increase or decrease the student’s grade significantly.

N.B. Mobile phones to be switched off throughout class duration. If your phone rings you will be asked to leave class and marked absent.

All readings are on blackboard.

Each student is required to write four critical review essays (1200-1400 words) analyzing the material assigned for a given week –other than the week when they will be the presenter. Essays should be handed in or before class of the week when the material is to be discussed. Each student is responsible for handing in at least two essays before or on week 6 addressing topics from those weeks. The two other essays must be handed in no later than week 12.

In addition, each student is required to write one 18-20 pages research paper. Paper topics may include any issue relevant to understanding the course material, but students are urged to discuss the selection of their topics with the instructor. Papers must be handed in no later than May 16th. All papers should be typed, 12 point font, double-spaced on A4 paper. Any used sources from the internet, books, and articles should be cited in the bibliography–this includes direct citing and paraphrasing. Plagiarism will automatically result in grade F in the course.
Late review essays and papers will be marked down one letter grade each day (e.g. from B to B-).

4 Review Essays: 10 % each
Research Paper: 30%
Participation and Presentations: 30%

**Grades are not open for negotiations and No grade will be changed.**

**Week 1: Introduction 31/1**

**Week 2: What is Democracy 7/2**


**Week 3: Regime types 14/2**


**Week 4: Democratic Transition 21/2**


Geddes, Barbara. 1999. What Do We Know About Democratization After Twenty Years? Annual Review of Political Science.2: 115-144

**Week 5: Transitions II  28/2**


**Week 6: Democratic Consolidation  7/3**


**Week 7: The On-going Dilemma: Civil-Military Relations 14/3**


Tusalem, R. Bringing the military back in: The politicisation of the military and its effect on democratic consolidation International Political Science Review September 2014 vol. 35 no. 4 482-501

**Week 8: Critique of Transitology I 21/3**


**Week 9: Tunisia: An Arab Anomaly 28/3**

A book Talk at the Oriental Hall 6:00-8:00. We will be reading the book under the same name before the talk.

**Week 10: Critique II 11/4**


**Week 11: Overview of theories of Revolution 18/4**


Voglis, P. 2014, "'Talkin' about a revolution, it sounds like a whisper': theories and debates on social revolutions", HISTOREIN, vol. 13 pp.47-56.


**Week 12: Resistance and Uprisings 2/5**


**Week 13: Paper Presentations 9/5**

Extra readings (not required but very useful):
Theda Skocpol, 1979. States and Social Revolutions
Vladimir Lenin, 1918. State and Revolution