

POLS 3345 Democracy and Democratization
Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Taeko Hiroi
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Office Hours: M 10-11, R 1-2, and by appointment
E-mail: thiroy@utep.edu
Class Time/Location: MW 1:30-2:50/ UGLC 342

Course Description

This course surveys major themes in democracy and democratization. Since the 1970s, a number of countries have started their transitions towards democracy. Many seem to have successfully completed the transition while others have been struggling to maintain and consolidate their fledgling democracy. Some have experienced democratic reversal.

In this course, we seek to answer: (1) How is democracy defined and measured?; (2) Why do some countries democratize while others do not?; (3) Why do some countries enjoy stable democratic regimes whereas others experience democratic instability and collapse?; and (4) How does the design of political institutions foster or hinder the stability and effectiveness of democracy? This course is organized around thematic topics rather than geographic areas, but we will also discuss specific examples from around the world.

Course Objectives

Upon the successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- 1) define the principal elements of democracy;
- 2) analyze and classify various societies based on the degrees and attributes of democracy;
- 3) explain the causes of democratization, democratic consolidation, and democratic breakdowns;
- 4) design and evaluate democratic political institutions; and
- 5) analyze how electoral systems and boundaries affect political representation.

Course Text

The following books are available for purchase through the University's bookstore.

- Diamond, Larry, and Marc F. Plattner, eds. 2009. *Democracy: A Reader*. Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Sørensen, Georg. 2008. *Democracy and Democratization: Processes and Prospects in a Changing World*. Westview Press. Third Edition.

Other assigned readings are available through the UTEP library.

Course Requirements

To pass this course, you must complete the following requirements with satisfactory grades: 1) regular class participation and reading, 2) all course assignments, 3) a mid-term exam, and 4) a final exam.

Class participation

I expect every student to contribute to our collective learning environment by coming to every class, having completed assigned readings and being prepared to discuss them. You will be evaluated on both the quality and quantity of your participation.

Course Assignments

Readings

You are expected to complete all reading assignments before class so that you can make useful contributions to class discussions. Lectures may not necessarily duplicate assigned readings. However, you will be responsible for acquainting yourself with the materials in the readings. The reading schedule is found at the end of this syllabus. I reserve the right to assign you short additional readings as appropriate.

Assignment #1: Evaluating Democratic Status

You will evaluate the democratic status of a country using the evaluation tools and criteria you will learn in this course. I will assign you to a specific country that you need to assess. I will hand out specific instructions on the course's Blackboard page. The evaluation report is *due on September 24 at the beginning of the class*. Because we will discuss these materials in class, you will not receive a grade if you turn in your report late.

Assignment #2: Vote Count Exercise

In this assignment, you will tally votes and determine winners under various electoral rules. Specific instructions will be given the course's Blackboard page. The assignment is *due on November 12 at the beginning of the class*. Because we will discuss these materials in class, you will not receive a grade if you turn in your assignment late.

Assignment #3: Apportionment and Redistricting Exercise

You will perform a series of exercises using online resources to understand how citizens' representational rights can be infringed upon even in a democratic country and think about how to ensure that everyone's vote counts equally. Assignment 3 will consist of a series of exercises performed during this time (November 19-December 3). Detailed instructions will be given prior to this assignment.

Exams

There will be a mid-term and a final exam. These exams will be closed book and closed notes and will be given in class. Questions will be based on the readings, lectures, and class discussions. The mid-term exam will be based on the topics covered until when it is given. The final will be comprehensive. The **mid-term** will be given on **October 20** during the regular class hour, and the **final** on **December 10, 4:00-6:45 pm**. Please do not be late. No student will be allowed to enter the room after 10 minutes past the beginning of the

scheduled exam time unless prior arrangements are made with me. I will consider giving a make-up exam only for a valid, documented emergency.

Grades

Final grades are determined as follows:

Course Requirement	Weight
Mid-Term	20%
Final Exam	30%
Assignment #1	15%
Assignment #2	15%
Assignment #3	15%
Class Participation	5%

Final Grade Scale	
90% ≤	A
80% ≤ & < 90%	B
70% ≤ & < 80%	C
60% ≤ & < 70%	D
<60%	F

Course Materials

Course materials are intended for your personal use only. An unauthorized use, dissemination, distribution, publication or replication of course materials is strictly prohibited. Course materials refer to those made available to you through this course and/or by me and teaching assistants. They include, but not limited to, materials made available on Blackboard (such as power point slides, lecture outlines, and supplementary readings), study guides, and exams.

Course Policy

Please comply with the following policies in order to maintain an effective and pleasant learning environment for everyone.

- **No electronic devices are allowed during the class.** This includes, but not limited to, cell phones, laptops, and netbook and tablet computers. If you bring them to class, they must be turned off and stored in your bag all the time. If you need to keep your cell phone on for emergency, please notify me ahead of time.
- No chatting, napping, e-mailing, internet browsing, or any activity not related to class is allowed during class hours. Those activities disturb other students who want to learn. If you need to do these things, please leave the classroom. Please also be aware that no food or drink is allowed in the UGLC classrooms.

- Please check Blackboard often. I may distribute handouts and make announcements on Blackboard as well as in class.
- **Arrive early on the exam days.** No student will be allowed to enter the classroom after 10 minutes past the beginning of the scheduled exam time unless prior arrangements are made with me.
- I will consider giving make-up exams only under valid, documented emergencies. If you need to take a make-up exam under these circumstances, you must contact me prior to the exam (if you can), or within one week from the date of the exam.
- Students who wish to drop the course must do so by the course drop deadline as determined by the university. I will not withdraw students after this date without a valid, documented reason.
- If you need to contact me, please send email to me (thiroy@utep.edu) from your UTEP email address and include the course title, your name, and UTEP ID number.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Refer to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for further information.

Disabilities: I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Disabled Student Services Office in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks of classes. The Disabled Student Services Office can also be reached in the following ways:

Web: <http://www.utep.edu/dsso>
Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY
Fax: (915) 747-8712
E-Mail: dss@utep.edu

Course Schedule

Note: The following is a *tentative* schedule. You will be notified of any changes made to this schedule.

August 25: Introduction: Patterns of Democracy in the World

Diamond and Plattner, eds., Introduction.

August 27: American Political Science Association Meeting

Class will not meet.

*Use this time to do the reading for the next topic, “What Is Democracy.”

September 1: Labor Day

University is closed.

September 3-8: What Is Democracy—Defining Democracy

Sørensen, Ch. 1, pp. 3-18.

Diamond and Plattner, eds., Chs 1, 3, 5 & 21.

September 10-15: How Do We Know—Measuring Democracy

Sørensen, Ch. 1, pp. 18-27.

Diamond and Plattner, eds., Chs. 2 & 4.

David Collier and Steven Levitsky (1997), “Democracy with Adjectives,” *World Politics*, Vol. 49, No. 3, pp. 430-451. (Library e-journal)

September 17-22: Democratization I—Patterns of Democratization

Samuel Huntington. 1991. *The Third Wave*. Ch. 1 (E-book is available through library).

September 24: Evaluating Democracy: Discussion of Assignment #1

*Assignment #1 due in class.

September 29-October 1: Democratization II— Causes (Modernization)

Diamond and Plattner, eds., Ch. 7.

October 6-8: Democratization III—Causes (Culture)

Diamond and Plattner, eds, Chs. 8, 9, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 & 27.

October 13-15: Democratization IV—Causes (External Factors)

Sørensen, Ch. 4.

Diamond and Plattner, eds., Ch. 20.

October 20: Mid-Term Exam

October 22-27: Democratic Consolidation—Definition, Processes, and Obstacles

Sørensen, Chs. 2 & 3.

October 29-November 3: Constitutional Design I: Parties and Elections

Diamond and Plattner, eds., Ch. 6.

November 5-10: Constitutional Design II: Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Executive-Legislative Relations

Juan Linz. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism." *Journal of Democracy* Volume 1, Number 1: 51-69 (Library e-journal).

Diamond and Plattner, eds., Ch. 14.

**Assignment 2 due on November 12 in class*

November 12-17: Constitutional Design III: Constitutional Design for Divided Societies

Diamond and Plattner, eds, Chs. 10, 11, 12 & 15.

November 19-December 3: Issues in Political Representation: Malapportionment and Redistricting

You will perform a series of exercises using online resources to understand how citizens' representational rights can be infringed upon even in a democratic country and think about how to ensure that everyone's vote counts equally.

**Assignment 3* will consist of a series of exercises performed during this time. Detailed instructions will be given.

December 10: Final Exam (4:00-6:45pm)