

School of Humanities and Social Sciences / Political Science and International Relations (English)

2024 - 2025 Academic Year

DEMOCRACY and AUTOCRACY

Syllabus

Course Description					
Name	Code	Semester	T+A Hour	Credit	ECTS
DEMOCRACY and AUTOCRACY	INT4213313	Spring Semester	3+0	3	6
Prerequisites Courses					
Recommended Elective Courses					
Language of Instruction	English				
Course Level	First Cycle (Bachelor's Degree)				
Course Type	Elective				
Course Coordinator	Assist.Prof. Merve ATEŞ EREN				
Name of Lecturer(s)	Assist.Prof. Merve ATEŞ EREN				
Assistant(s)					
Aim	This course aims at introducing students to various topics on democratic and autocratic regimes. What is democracy? What makes a political regime democratic or autocratic? Why are some countries democracies while others are not? How do democracies die? How do democracies perform? What do we know about contemporary democratic backsliding? The course has been organized to cover basic conceptual tools, theories, and empirical findings to answer these questions.				
Course Content	This course contains; Week 1 – Introduction,Week 2 – Classification of regimes-Conceptualization and measurementWhat is democracy?,Week 3 – Classification of regimes-Conceptualization and measurementWhat is autocracy?,Week 4 – Democratic consolidation, political culture, institutions, and popular support ,Week 5 – Hybrid regimes ,Week 6 – Transition to democracy I,Week 7 – Transition to democracy II,WEEK 8 – MIDTERM IN-CLASS,Week 9 – Domestic and international democracy promotion ,Week 10 – Democratic breakdown ,Week 11 – Military coups and autogolpes ,Week 12 – How do democracies perform?Policy making and outcomes in democracies,Week 13 – Contemporary democratic backsliding ,Week 14 – Corruption, populism, and polarization ,Week 15 – Presentations & Review session.				
Course Learning Outcomes			Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods	
Understands alternative conceptualizations and measurements of democracy, summarizes the scholarly criteria for what makes a regime democratic and explains the example regime types based based on alternative criteria.			10, 13, 14, 19, 23, 5, 9	A, E	
Identifies the characteristics of autocratic political regimes, compares different types of non-democratic political regimes.			10, 13, 16, 19, 6, 9	A	
Identifies the terms democratic consolidation and political culture; explains the relationship between these terms and the survival of democratic regimes.			10, 13, 16, 6, 9	A	
Classifies regimes along the autocracy-democracy continuum, identifies and exemplifies hybrid regimes.			10, 16, 19, 6, 9	A	
Understands the phenomenon of democratization and summarizes alternative explanations for democratization.			10, 16, 19, 6, 9	A	
Identifies why and how democracies collapse (or erode) and discusses the cases democratic breakdown(s) based on scholarly concepts and theories.			10, 16, 9	A	
Identifies various forms of military interventions in politics and summarizes their short-term and long-term effects on the future of democracy.			10, 16, 19, 9	A	
Understands the concept "governance" and its relationship with the regime types, and compares the performance and capacity of different political regimes in terms of economy, social welfare or international relations.			10, 16, 9	A	
Identifies the concepts "populism, polarization and corruption," explains and exemplifies the relationship between these concepts and democratic backsliding/breakdown.			10, 16, 6, 9	A	
Teaching Methods	10: Discussion Method, 13: Case Study Method, 14: Self Study Method, 16: Question - Answer Technique, 19: Brainstorming Technique, 23: Concept Map Technique, 5: Cooperative Learning, 6: Experiential Learning, 9: Lecture Method				
Assessment Methods	A: Traditional Written Exam, E: Homework				
Lecture Schedule					
Sequence	Topics	Preliminary Preparation			
1	Week 1 – Introduction	Syllabus, course content and requirements			
2	Week 2 – Classification of regimes-Conceptualization and measurementWhat is democracy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schumpeter, J. A. 2003 [1942]. Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy. Taylor & Francis e-library. [Chapter 22] • Dahl, Robert A. 1971. Polyarchy. New Haven, CT.: Yale University Press. [Chapter 1] • Schmitter, P. C., & Karl, T. L. 1991. "What democracy is... and is not." Journal of democracy, 2(3), 75-88. • Coppedge, M., Gerring, J., Altman, D., Bernhard, M., Fish, S., Hicken, A., . . . Teorell, J. 2011. Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: A New Approach. Perspectives on Politics, 9(2), 247-267. doi:10.1017/S1537592711000880 			
3	Week 3 – Classification of regimes-Conceptualization and measurementWhat is autocracy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindstaedt, Natasha. 2020. "Authoritarian Regimes" in Comparative Politics, 5th Edition, edited by Daniele Caramani. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Chapter 6]. • Schedler, A. 2010. "Authoritarianism's last line of defense." Journal of Democracy, 21(1), 69-80. • Svobik, M. W. 2009. "Power sharing and leadership dynamics in authoritarian regimes." American Journal of Political Science, 53(2), 477-494. • Glasius, M. 2018. "What authoritarianism is... and is not: a practice perspective." International Affairs, 94(3), 515-533. 			
4	Week 4 – Democratic consolidation, political culture, institutions, and popular support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedler, A. 1998. What is democratic consolidation? Journal of democracy, 9(2), 91-107. • Svobik, M. 2008. Authoritarian reversals and democratic consolidation. American Political Science Review, 153-168. • Linz, Juan, and Alfred Stepan. 1996. "Toward Consolidated Democracies". Journal of Democracy 7(2): 14-33. 			
5	Week 5 – Hybrid regimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collier, D., & Levitsky, S. 1997. Democracy with adjectives: Conceptual innovation in comparative research. World politics, 49(3), 430-451. • Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way 2002. "The rise of competitive authoritarianism." Journal of Democracy, 13(2): 51-65. • Diamond, Larry. 2002. "Thinking about Hybrid Regimes." Journal of Democracy 13(2): 21 - 35. • Morlino, Leonardo. 2009. "Are there hybrid regimes? Or are they just an optical illusion?" European Political Science Review 1: 273-296. 			

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Lecture Schedule		
Sequence	Topics	Preliminary Preparation
6	Week 6 – Transition to democracy I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moore, Barrington. 1966. <i>Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World</i>. Boston: Beacon Press [Chapter 7]. Lipset, S. M. 1959. "Some social requisites of democracy: Economic development and political legitimacy." <i>American political science review</i>, 53(01), 69-86. Inglehart, Ronald and Welzel, Christian. 2010. "Changing mass priorities: The link between modernization and democracy." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i>, 8(2).
7	Week 7 – Transition to democracy II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carothers, Thomas. 2002. "The End of the Transition Paradigm," <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 13, no. 1: 5-21. Geddes, B., Wright, J. G., Wright, J., & Frantz, E. (2018). <i>How dictatorships work: Power, personalization, and collapse</i>. Cambridge University Press. [Chapter 8] Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. 2006. <i>Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Chapter 2]
8	WEEK 8 – MIDTERM IN-CLASS	
9	Week 9 – Domestic and international democracy promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teorell, Jan. 2010. <i>Determinants of Democratization: Explaining Regime Change in the World, 1972–2006</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Chapter 5] Brancati, Dawn. 2014. "Pocketbook Protests: Explaining the Emergence of Pro-Democracy Protests Worldwide." <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 47, no. 11: 1503-1530. Levitsky, Steven and Lucan A. Way. 2006. "Linkage versus leverage - Rethinking the international dimension of regime change." <i>Comparative Politics</i> 38 (4): 379. Sandra Lavenex & Frank Schimmelfennig. 2011. "EU democracy promotion in the neighbourhood: from leverage to governance?" <i>Democratization</i>, 18:4, 885-909
10	Week 10 – Democratic breakdown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bermeo, Nancy. 2003. <i>Ordinary people in extraordinary times: The citizenry and the breakdown of democracy</i>. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. [Chapter 2] Mainwaring, S., & Pérez-Liñán, A. 2013. "Democratic breakdown and survival." <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, 24(2), 123-137. Levitsky, Steven, and Daniel Ziblatt. 2018. <i>How Democracies Die</i>. New York: Crown. [Chapter 4 & 5] Slater, D., Smith, B., & Nair, G. (2014). <i>Economic origins of democratic breakdown? The redistributive model and the postcolonial state</i>. <i>Perspectives on Politics</i>, 353-374.
11	Week 11 – Military coups and autogolpes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheibub, Jos'e Antonio. 2007. <i>Presidentialism, parliamentarism, and democracy</i>. New York: Cambridge University Press. [Chapter 1] Geddes, B., Wright, J. G., Wright, J., & Frantz, E. (2018). <i>How dictatorships work: Power, personalization, and collapse</i>. Cambridge University Press. [Chapter 3] Marinov, Nikolay, and Hein Goemans. 2014. "Coups and Democracy." <i>British Journal of Political Science</i>, 44: 799-825 Quinlivan, James T. 1999. "Coup-proofing: Its Practice and Consequences in the Middle East." <i>Quarterly Journal: International Security</i>, 24(2): 131-165
12	Week 12 – How do democracies perform? Policy making and outcomes in democracies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ross, Michael. 2006. "Is democracy good for the poor?" <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 50(4): 860-874. Siegle, Joseph T., Michael Weinstein and Morton Halperin. 2004. "Why democracies excel." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 83(5): 57-72. Pippa Norris. 2012. <i>Making Democratic Governance Work: How regimes shape prosperity, welfare and peace</i>. NY: CUP [Chapter 7] Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. 2012. <i>Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty</i>. London: Profile Books. [Chapter 1]
13	Week 13 – Contemporary democratic backsliding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haggard, S., & Kaufman, R. (2021). <i>Backsliding: Democratic Regress in the Contemporary World (Elements in Political Economy)</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
14	Week 14 – Corruption, populism, and polarization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E. Warren, Mark. "What does corruption mean in a democracy?" <i>American journal of political science</i> 48.2 (2004): 328-343. McCoy, Jennifer, Rahman, Tahmina and Somer, Murat. 2018. "Polarization and the Global Crisis of Democracy: Common Patterns, Dynamics and Pernicious Consequences for Democratic Polities," <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i> 62(1): 16-42. Weyland, K. 2020. "Populism's Threat to Democracy: Comparative Lessons for the United States." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i>, 18(2), 389-406.
15	Week 15 – Presentations & Review session	
Evaluation Methods		Weight(%)
Midterm Exam		40
General Exam		60

Resources

Reading package including various journal articles and book chapters.