International Relations 408: Global Democratization

Spring 2007

When: Tu & Th 3:30-4:50 pm
Where: VKC 259
Professor Gerardo Munck
E-Mail: munck@usc.edu
Office Hours: Tu 2:00-3:30
Office: VKC 326A

1. Course Description

This class focuses on recent thinking about democracy and efforts by the international community to promote democracy. We will start out by considering some standard works and current debates in democratic theory, addressing also the links between theorizing about democracy, development and human rights. Then we will consider the sweeping trend toward democracy in global politics. Thereafter we will focus on various global, regional and national initiatives to promote democracy. We conclude the course by drawing some broad lessons about democracy promotion.

2. Requirements

i) Three short papers (each paper is worth 10% of the final grade). These short papers (between 3 and 4 double-spaced pages) will focus on a question handed out in class.

ii) A class presentation of a 10 double-spaced pages paper (20% of the final grade) offering a democracy assessment of a country of the student’s choice.

iii) An in-class mid-term (20%), and an in-class final exam (30%).
Topic Outline and Reading Assignments

I. Introduction

Problems in the Theory and Practice of Democracy (Meeting 1 & 2: January 9 & 11)
No assigned readings

II. Democratic Theory: Evolving Conceptions

II. i. The Election of Decision Makers: Schumpeter (Meeting 3: January 16)

II. ii. Beyond Elections I: Dahl and the Quality of Democracy (Meetings 4, 5 & 6: January 18, 23 & 25)

II. iii. Beyond Elections II: Human Development and Human Rights (Meetings 7 & 8: January 30 & February 1)

III. Global Politics: Historical Trends and Current Issues

III. i. Democratization (Meetings 9 & 10: February 6 & 8)
III. ii. Limits to Democratization (Meetings 11 & 12: February 13 & 15)

III. iii. Overview (Meeting 13: February 20)

*Midterm Exam - Meeting 14: February 22*

IV. The New Democracy Promotion

IV. i. Actors and Agendas (Meetings 15 & 16: February 27 & March 1)

IV. ii. Some Constraints (Meeting 17: March 6)

IV. iii. The Role of Information and Analysis in Politics (Meeting 18: March 8)
No assigned readings

*Spring Recess: March 12-17*
V. The Challenge of Measurement in the Field of Politics

V. i. Data and Methods (Meeting 19: March 20)


V. ii. A Practical Exercise: The HDI (Meetings 20 & 21: March 22 & 27)


UNDP, Human Development Report 2006 (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), read the technical note on the human development index (HDI) on pages 383-84 of the “Technical Note 1. Calculating the human development indices” and the section on the data sources used in the HDI on pages 276-79 of the part entitled “Table 1: about the human development index.” Finally see the data on the HDI on pages 283-86.

VI. Some Data-Reliant Initiatives

VI. i. International IDEA’s Democracy Assessments (Meetings 22 & 23: March 29 & April 3)


International IDEA, Handbook on Democracy Assessment (2002), Part 3: “The Assessment Framework.” [This is a long document. Simply glance over it to get a sense of different sources of information.]

Todd Landman, Marco Larizza, Claire McEvoy and Edzia Carvalho, State of Democracy in Central Asia. A Comparative Study (Essex, United Kingdom: Human Rights Centre, University of Essex, February 2006). [This is a long document too. So read quickly, but pay attention to the data sources used to measure different concepts and the conclusions extracted from the data.]
VI. ii. The US MCA Foreign Assistance Program (Meetings 24 & 25: April 5 & 10)


Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), The Fiscal Year 2007 Selection Process for MCA Eligible Countries. [To understand the MCA process, start with this brief summary. For more on the MCC, the MCA and the selection criteria, go to http://www.mcc.gov/index.php]

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), Report on the Criteria and Methodology for Determining the Eligibility of Candidate Countries for Millennium Challenge Account Assistance in Fiscal Year 2007 [Read page 1, skip the next part and start reading again when you get to the section on “Criteria and Methodology” on page 7.]


VI. iii. Election Monitoring (Meetings 26 & 27: April 12 & 17)


Carter Center et al., Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and Code of Conduct for International Election Observers, an agreement spearheaded by the Carter Center, the NDI, and the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division, and signed by 21 organizations on October 24, 2005.


VII. Conclusion

VII. i. Taking Stock (Meeting 28: April 19)


VII. ii. Student Presentations (Meetings 29 & 30: April 24 & 26)

Final Exam - Tuesday, May 8, 2:00-4:00 p.m.