

Professor Dawn Brancati  
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Class Meeting: T, 12:10-2:00pm, IAB 501  
Office Hours: T, 11-12pm. Location: 706 IAB

## **POLSW3951: DEMOCRACY: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will examine the major international and domestic causes and consequences of democracy worldwide. The course will cover 4 major themes: (1) the social determinants of democracy (i.e., culture, religion, and protests), (2) the economic causes and consequences of democracy, (3) the international political and economic influences on democracy (i.e., foreign aid, international organizations, electoral monitors), and (4) international and domestic wars.

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES:**

Essay #1 (6-9 pages): 25%  
Essay #2 (8-10 pages): 30%  
Essay #3 (8-10 pages): 35%  
Class Participation: 10%

All students must submit their assignments on time. Late assignments will be graded down 1/3 point for every day late. Assignments more than 3 days late will NOT be accepted. Extensions will only be granted in the case of serious unforeseen illness and/or family emergencies. Questions regarding the assignments are encouraged. However, neither the course instructor nor teaching assistant will read drafts of the papers.

The class participation grade is based not only on attendance, but contributions to classroom discussions. More than 1-2 absences from class will lower your participation grade regardless of the reason. Please no emails regarding the reason for your absence from class.

### **READINGS**

Students are expected to come to each class having read the assignments for that day ahead of time and to participate in the class discussions. For each reading, students should be prepared to discuss the main argument and quality of the supporting evidence. In addition to the assigned readings, students should follow the international news on a daily basis (e.g., Al Jazeera, NYT, Guardian).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students are expected to do their own work on all assignments for this course and act in accordance with the Faculty Statement on Academic Integrity and the Columbia College Honor Code. Students who plagiarize, use unauthorized materials, or commit any other act of academic dishonesty will fail the course and be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

## **INTRODUCTION (TUES., 09/06/16)**

No Readings. Discussion of syllabus, course requirements and responsibilities.

## **I. CONCEPTS AND MEASURES (TUES., 09/13/16)**

Drutman, Lee. How Corporate Lobbyists Conquered American Democracy? *The Atlantic*, 20 April 2015. <http://tinyurl.com/nl47ymw>

Schmitter, Phillippe and Terry Karl. 1991. What Democracy is ... And is Not. *Journal of Democracy* 2(3): 75-88.

Stanley, Jason and Vesla Weaver, Is the United States a 'Racial Democracy'? *The New York Times*, 12 January 2014. <http://tinyurl.com/henk2rc>

Zakarhia, Fareed. 1997. The Rise of Illiberal Democracy. *Foreign Affairs* (November/December): 22.

Questions: There are two basic types of definitions of democracy – a narrow definition of free and fair elections, and broader definition, which includes personal autonomy, economic freedoms, civil rights and so forth. How do you believe democracy should be defined? What are the trends in the incidence of democracy according to both these definitions over time?

## **II. ELECTIONS IN NON-DEMOCRACIES MEASURES (TUES., 09/20/16)**

Tsai, Lilly L. 2007. *Accountability without Democracy: Solidary Groups and Public Goods Provision in Rural China*. New York: Cambridge UP. Chapter 4.

Gandhi, Jennifer. 2008. *Political Institutions under Dictatorship*. New York: Cambridge University Press. pp. 73-106; pp. 107-138

Malesky, Edmund and Paul Schuler. 2010. Nodding or Needling: Analyzing Delegate Responsiveness in an Authoritarian Parliament, *American Political Science Review*, 104 (3): 482-502.

Malesky, Edmund, Paul Schuler, and Anh Tran. 2012. The Adverse Effects of Sunshine: Evidence from a Field Experiment on Legislative Transparency in an Authoritarian Assembly. *American Political Science Review* 106(4): 762-786.

Questions: Why do authoritarian regimes hold elections? What evidence is there to support these arguments? Is this evidence compelling? Why do citizens vote in non-democracies?

## **III. RELIGION AND CULTURE (TUES., 09/27/16)**

Hirsi Ali: Is Islam Compatible with Liberal Democracy? An interview with Ayaan Hirsi Ali at The

Aspen Ideas Festival (2007). Part 1-6. <http://www.aspenideas.org/session/islam-compatible-liberal-democracy>

Hoffman, Michael and Amaney Jamal. "Religion in the Arab Spring: Between Two Competing Narratives" *Journal of Politics*, 76 (3): 593-606.

Tessler, Mark, Amaney Jamal, and Michael Robbins. 2014. New Findings on Arabs and Democracy. In *Democratization and Authoritarianism in the Arab World*, Ed. Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, chapter 6. Baltimore: John Hopkins Press.

Room For Debate: Is Islam an Obstacle to Democracy, *The New York Times*, 4 October 2012. <http://tinyurl.com/zt46agw>

Questions: Are certain religions or philosophies, like Islam and Confucianism, incompatible with democracy? Why or why not? What problems does multi-ethnicity pose to democracy? Is a certain type of political culture necessary for democracy to take root in countries?

#### **IV. CIVIL SOCIETY/PROTESTS (TUES., 10/04/16)**

Berman, Sheri. 1997. Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic. *World Politics* 49 (3): 401-429.

Brancati, Dawn. 2014. Democracy Protests: Origins, Features and Significance. New York: Cambridge UP. Chapters 2 (skim), 3, 6 (skim), 8 (skim). <https://www1.columbia.edu/sec-cgi-bin/cul/respac/respac?CRSE=20163POLS3951W002|Brancati>

Hobbs, William and Margaret E Roberts. 2016. How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information. <http://www.margaretroberts.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/selfiecensorship.pdf>

Putnam, Robert. 1995. Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital. *Journal of Democracy* 6 (1): 65-78.

Questions: What effect does a strong civil society have on democratization? What role do protests play in bringing about democracy? Does modern technologies and media facilitate, hinder or have no effect on political mobilization? How does a strong civil society arise in non-democracies?

#### **V. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (TUES., 10/11/16)**

Buena de Mesquita, Bruce and George W. Downs. 2005. Democracy and Development. *Foreign Affairs* (September/October): 77-86.

Bonica, Adam, Nolan McCarty, Keith T. Poole and Howard Rosenthal. 2013. Why Hasn't Democracy Slowed Rising Inequality? *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 27(3): 103-24.

Inglehart, Ronald and Christian Welzel. 2009. How Development Leads to Democracy. *Foreign Affairs* (March/April): 33-49.

Ross, Michael. 2006. Is Democracy Good for the Poor? *American Journal of Political Science* 50(4): 860-874.

Questions: What are the different ways in which economic development can cause democratization? What effect does democracy have on economic development? How is economic inequality related to economic development and to democratization?

\*\*\*\*\* PAPER ASSIGNMENT #1, TUES., 10/18/16@ 9PM \*\*\*\*\*

## VI. HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT (TUES., 10/18/16)

Butler, Anthony. 2005. The negative and positive impacts of HIV/AIDS on democracy in South Africa. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 23(1): 3-26.

~~Eriksson, Clas and Joakim Persson 2013. Democracy, income and pollution, *Environmental Economics and Policy Studies*, 15 (3): 291-308.~~

Ross, Michael. 2001. Does Oil Hinder Democracy? *World Politics* 53 (3): 325-361.

Ross, Michael. 2008. Oil, Islam, and Women. *American Political Science Review* 102 (01): 107-123

Questions: What are the different mechanisms through which oil can prevent democratization? What are the mechanisms through which the democracy is believed to affect the environment and vice versa? Are these mechanisms compelling?

## VII. FOREIGN AID (TUES., 10/25/16)

Faisal Z. Ahmed. 2012. The Perils of Unearned Foreign Income: Aid, Remittances, and Government Survival. *American Political Science Review* 106(1): 146-165.

Simone Dietrich, Minhaj Mahmud, Matthew S. Winters. 2015. Foreign Aid, Foreign Policy, and Domestic Government Legitimacy: Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh *AidData. Working Paper 16 (December): 1-46.*

Beath, Andrew, Fotini Christia and Ruben Enikolopov. 2013. Empowering Women through Development Aid: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Afghanistan. *American Political Science Review* 107 (03): 540-557.

Easterly, William. Foreign Aid for Scoundrels. *The New York Review of Books*. November 25, 2010.

Finkel, Steven E., et al. 2007. The Effects of U.S. Foreign Assistance on Democracy Building, 1990–2003. *World Politics* 59 (3): 404-439.

Questions: Can foreign aid lead countries to democratize? Through what pathways? Why or why not?

## **VIII. TRADE AND FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (TUES., 11/01/16)**

Hafner-Burton, Emilie. 2005. Trading Human Rights: How Preferential Trade Agreements Influence Government Repression. *International Organization* 59 (3): 593-629.

Hovi, Jon, Robert Huseby and Detlef F. Sprinz. 2005. When Do Economic Sanctions Work? *World Politics* 57 (July): 479-99.

Levy, Philip I. Sanctions on South Africa: What Did They Do? *The American Economic Review* 89 (2): Papers and Proceedings of the One Hundred Eleventh Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association (May, 1999), pp. 415-420. (Wed).

Chen, Wenjie, David Dollar, and Heiwai Tang, 2015. Why is China Investing in Africa? Evidence from the Firm Level, Brookings Institution Working Paper (August): 1-30. <http://tinyurl.com/orep93b>

Questions: Can trade and sanctions lead countries to democratize? If so, under what conditions and through what pathways? Why or why not?

**\*\*\*\* NOVEMBER 8, 2016 ELECTION DAY (NO CLASS) \*\*\*\***

## **IX. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (TUES., 11/15/16)**

Black, David R. and Shona Bezanson. 2004. The Olympic Games, Human Rights and Democratisation: Lessons from Seoul and Implications for Beijing. *Third World Quarterly* 25(7): 1245-1261.

Pevehouse, Jon C. 2002. Democracy from the Outside In? International Organizations and Democratization. *International Organization* 56 (3): 515-549.

Sotomayor, Arturo C, 2013. How Does Peacekeeping Socialize the Military in Haiti. *The Myth of the Democratic Peacekeeper*. Washington, DC. John Hopkins Press, pp. 127-159.

Wang, Cindy. 2013 “Exporting the Ivory Tower: Is it possible to export the liberal arts to places that restrict civil liberties?” *Foreign Policy In-Focus*, 26 August 2006.

Questions: What are the mechanisms by which international organizations (IO) can promote democracy in other countries? What conditions must be in place for IOs to be effective in this regard? Are they? Why or

why not?

\*\*\*\*\* PAPER ASSIGNMENT #2, DUE TUES., 11/22/16 @ 9PM \*\*\*\*\*

## **X. INTERNATIONAL AND CIVIL WAR (TUES., 11/22/16)**

Byman, Daniel. 2003. Constructing a Democratic Iraq: Challenges and Opportunities. *International Security* 28(1): 47-78.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and George W. Downs. 2008. Intervention and Democracy. *International Organization* 60 (3): 627-649.

Fortna, Page. 2008. Peacekeeping and Democratization. *From War to Democracy*. Edited by Anna K. Jarstad and Timothy D. Sisk. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 39-79.

Weeks, Jessica. 2008. Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve. *International Organization*, 62 (1): 35-64.

Questions: What are the challenges to using military force to democratize other countries? When is force, if ever, effective in this regard? In what way, if any, do democratic countries engage in international conflict differently than authoritarian states?

## **XI. INTERNATIONAL AND CIVIL PEACE (TUES., 11/29/16)**

Li, Quan. 2005. Does democracy promote or reduce transnational terrorist incidents? *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(2): 278-297

Mansfield, Edward D. and Jack L. Snyder. 2005. *Electing to Fight: Why Emerging Democracies Go to War*. Cambridge: The MIT Press. Chapters 2 and 7

Hegre, Håvard, Tanja Ellingsen, Scott Gates and Peter Gleditsch. 2001. Toward a Democratic Civil Peace: Democracy, Political Change and Civil War, 1816-1992. *American Political Science Review* 95 (1): 33-48.

Questions: What effect does democracy and democratization have on the likelihood of international war, civil war, and terrorism to occur?

## **XII. INTERNATIONAL DIFFUSION AND CONTAGION (TUES., 12/06/16)**

Bunce, Valerie J. and Sharon L. Wolchik. 2006. International Diffusion and Postcommunist Electoral

Revolutions. *Communist and Post-communist Studies* 39:283-304.

Brancati, Dawn and Adrian Lucardi, Why Democracy Does Not Spread (working paper).

Friedman, Elisabeth Jay. 2012. Constructing “The Same Rights With the Same Names”: The Impact of Spanish Norm Diffusion on Marriage Equality in Argentina. *Latin American Politics and Society* 54(4): 29-59

Donna, Daniela. 2013. *Defending Democratic Norms*. Oxford: Oxford UP. Chapter 4

Questions: What is the difference between diffusion and contagion effects in relation to democracy?  
Does democracy spread to other countries by either one of these effects?

\*\*\*\*\* **PAPER ASSIGNMENT#3 (FRIDAY, DEC. 16 @ NOON)** \*\*\*\*\*