Course Description

The collapse of authoritarian rule in Southern Europe, Latin America and East Asia which began in the 1970s, the breakdown of Communist regimes in East Europe and the former Soviet Union which began in 1989, and the recent color revolutions and the Arab Spring which began in the 2000s, have revived interest in the study of democratization. Did the literature of transition from authoritarian regimes shed light on the developmental trend and pattern of Soviet-type regime transition? What explains the resilience of existing authoritarian regimes? How can democracy be effective and sustainable? The course aims to explore the democratization process in the post-communist countries in both theory and practice. Students are introduced to contending perspectives on the major issues of post-communist democratization.

Course Requirements and Grading

☼ Class participation (25%): Students are expected to attend regularly, to read the assigned readings, and to actively participate in class discussions.
☼ Presentations (25%): Each student is required to give three ten-minute oral presentations. The first two are to present reviews of the assigned readings of the weekly topic, and the final one is to present the research proposal of the final paper.
☼ Final paper (50%): Each student is required to write a research paper (5,000-8,000 words) related to the topics covered in the course. The final paper will be due on Jan. 16, 2017.
Websites, Periodicals, Multimedia, Further reading

websites:
- **EurasiaNet**, http://www.eurasianet.org
- **National Endowment for Democracy**, http://www.ned.org

Periodicals: **Journal of Democracy**; **Post-Soviet Affairs**; **Europe-Asia Studies**; **Problems of Post-Communism**; **Demokratizatsiya**; **East European Politics**; **Democratization**; **East European Politics and Societies and Cultures**; **Communist and Post-Communist Studies**; **Post-Communist Economies**; **Russian Politics and Law**; **Central Asian Survey**; **Slavic Review**; **Comparative Politics**; **Taiwan Journal of Democracy**

Online Multimedia:


**Schedule and Reading Assignments**

Week 1 (Sept. 14): Introduction

Week 2 (Sept. 21): The Global Wave of Democratization

Week 3 (Sept. 28): Theories of Democratization

Week 4 (Oct. 5): Measuring Democracy and Democratization

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Week 5 (Oct. 12): The Authoritarian Resurgence

Recommended: Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way, Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War; Andreas Schedler, Electoral Authoritarianism: The Dynamics of Unfree Competition; Larry Diamond, Marc F. Plattner, and Christopher Walker, eds., Authoritarianism Goes Global: The Challenge to Democracy.

Week 6 (Oct. 19): Constitutional Engineering and Democratization


Week 7 (Oct. 26): Political Parties and Democratization

Week 8 (Nov. 2): Elections and Democratization

Week 9 (Nov. 9): Civil Society and Democratization

Week 10 (Nov. 16): The Media and Democratization

Week 11 (Nov. 23): Political Elite and Democratization
- Lucan Way, Pluralism by Default: Weak Autocrats and the Rise of Competitive
Politics (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015), ch. 1.


Week 12 (Nov. 30): State Governance and Democratization


Week 13 (Dec. 7): Economic Development and Democratization


Week 14 (Dec. 14): Transitional Justice and Democratization

Week 15 (Dec. 21): Ethnic Politics, State-Building, and Democratization


Week 16 (Dec. 28): Civil-Military Relations and Democratization


Week 17 (Jan. 4): External Influence and Democratization

*Recommended*: Frank Schimmelfennig and Ulrich Sedelmeier, eds., *The Europeanization of Central and Eastern Europe*; Frank Schimmelfennig, Stefan Engert, and Heiko Knobel, *International Socialization in Europe: European Organizations, Political Conditionality and Democratic Change*. 

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