Post-Communist Democratization
International Master’s Program in International Studies
Graduate Institute of Russian Studies
National Chengchi University
Fall Semester, 2015

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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 seminar participant 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. 18, 2016.
Websites, Periodicals, Multimedia, Further reading

Websites:
- Nations in Transit 2015, Country Report, Freedom House,

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 Economics;
- Russian Politics and Law;
- Central Asian Survey;
- Slavic Review;
- Comparative Politics;
- Taiwan Journal of Democracy

Online Multimedia:
Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS), http://csis.org/multimedia;
Heritage Foundation, http://www.heritage.org;
- “Democracy promotion and the Democracy Recession,”
  http://www.ned.org/events/democracy-promotion-and-democracy-recession
- “The Global Campaign against Democratic Norms,”
  http://www.ned.org/events/the-global-campaign-against-democratic-norms
- “The Authoritarian Resurgence: China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela,”

Further reading:
Robert A Dahl, Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition; Larry Diamond, The Spirit of Democracy: The Struggle to Build Free Societies throughout the World; Nathan J. Brown, ed., The Dynamics of Democratization; Larry Diamond, Marc F. Plattner, and Philip J. Costopoulos, eds., Debates on Democratization; Samuel P. Huntington, The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century; Juan J. Linz & Alfred Stepan, Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe; Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, eds., The Global Resurgence of Democracy; Larry Diamond, Developing Democracy toward Consolidation; Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, eds., Democracy after Communism; Stephen White, Richard Sakwa and Henry E. Hale, eds., Developments in Russian Politics 8; Stephen White, Paul G. Lewis & Judy Batt, eds., Developments in Central & East European Politics 5; Amanda

**Schedule and Reading Assignments**

Week 1 (Sept. 18): Introduction

Week 2 (Sept. 25): Theories of Democratization

Week 3 (Oct. 2): The Authoritarian Resurgence

Week 4 (Oct. 9): National Day (Deferred Holiday)

Week 5 (Oct. 16): Constitutional Engineering and Democratization
- Henry E. Hale, “Formal Constitutions in Informal Politics: Institutions and


Week 6 (Oct. 23): Political Parties and Democratization


Week 7 (Oct. 30): Elections and Democratization


Week 8 (Nov. 6): Civil Society and Democratization


Week 9 (Nov. 13): The Media and Democratization


Week 10 (Nov. 20): Transitional Justice and Democratization


Week 11 (Nov. 27): State Governance and Democratization


Week 12 (Dec. 4): Economic Development and Democratization

Week 13 (Dec. 11): Political Elite and Democratization


Week 14 (Dec. 18): Civil-Military Relations and Democratization


Week 15 (Dec. 25): 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*.

Week 16 (Jan. 1): Founding Day of the Republic of China (Holiday)