PS3171: 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) various international political influences on democracy (i.e., foreign aid, international organizations, electoral monitors), and (4) international and domestic wars.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADES:

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

Readings are available through ARES. Password: democracy.

EXPECTATIONS/REQUIREMENTS:

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. 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 may be granted but only in the case of serious unforeseen illness and/or family emergencies. Powerpoint slides will not be made available to students.

INTRODUCTION (WED. 08/28/13)

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

I. CONCEPTS AND MEASURES (WED., 09/04/13, MON., 09/09/13)


Questions: There are two basics 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 (Wed., 09/11/13)


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

III. POLITICAL CULTURE (Mon., 09/16/13; Wed., 09/18/13)


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 (Mon., 09/23/15 and Wed., 09/25/13)


Questions: What effect does a strong civil society have on democratization? What role do protests play in bringing about democracy? How does a strong civil society arise in non-democracies?
V. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mon., 09/30/13, and Wed., 10/02/13)


Questions: What are the different ways in which economic development can cause democratization? What effect does democracy have on economic development?

VI. NATURAL RESOURCES/OIL (Mon, 10/07/13 and Wed. 10/09/13)


Questions: What are the different ways that oil can prevent democratization?

VII. TRADE AND INVESTMENT (Mon., 10/14/13 and Wed., 10/16/13)


Questions: Can trade and sanctions lead countries to democratize? Through what pathways? Why or why not?

VIII. FOREIGN AID (MON., 10/21/13 and WED. 10/23/13)


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

IX. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (MON., 10/28/13 and WED., 10/30/13)


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?

X. INTERNATIONAL ELECTORAL MONITORING (MON., 11/04/13 and WED. 11/06/13)


Questions: Do electoral monitors reduce electoral fraud? Why or why not? Can monitors be counter effective?

*************** PAPER ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE WED., 11/06/13 ***************

XI. INTERNATIONAL AND CIVIL WAR (Mon., 11/11/13 and Wed., 11/13/13)


Questions: What are the challenges to using military force to democratize other countries? When is force, if ever, effective in this regard?

XII. INTERNATIONAL AND CIVIL PEACE (Mon., 11/18/13 and Wed., 11/20/13)


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

XIII. INTERNATIONAL DIFFUSION/CONTAGION (Mon., 11/25/13)


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?
XIV. CONCLUSION (Mon., 12/02/13; Wed., 12/04/13 (no class))


Questions: What effect does democracy have on art and architecture, the environment, sports, happiness and so forth?

******************* PAPER ASSIGNMENT (Fri., 02/06/13) *******************