Globalization and Democracy  
Syllabus  
Spring, 2001  
GEOG 5332 / PSCI 5333 / SOCY 5333 / ECON 8320

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Office hours: Monday, 11 am – 1pm  
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Office hours will be held in Guggenheim 201f

Content and Overview

The second semester of the GAD seminar will focus on democracy and democratic transitions. Readings during the course of the semester will consider various ideas of democracy, the importance of understanding the context in which democratic institutions and practices develop, and trends that challenge our current understandings of democracy and the nation-state.

We will start with a brief overview of trends in the diffusion of democracy since the mid-1940s. The so-called “Third Wave” of democratization raised great hopes initially, but the events of subsequent years have called into question some of our basic understandings of what democracy means. In weeks 3 through 6, we examine some of the concepts that are held to be fundamental to democracy. This discussion is largely theoretical, though I have endeavored to include empirical studies in each week’s readings. In weeks 7-10, we examine case studies of democratic transitions in several regions of the world. These case studies should lead to a re-evaluation of some of our basic understandings of what democracy entails in different settings. After the break, we will consider several emerging challenges to democracy within the context of the nation-state. Many of the readings for these weeks will be more speculative in nature, as these trends are emerging and have not run their course. We conclude with a consideration of what all this means for democracy in the context of globalization.

Requirements and Grading

Each week, you will be responsible for reading the assigned materials. You will then write a 2-3 page “think piece” or “reaction paper” in which you consider some of the main issues in the assigned readings. But more than simply report what the authors
wrote, I want you to comment, analyze, or in some way extend their arguments. For example, does an author’s argument make sense? Why or why not? Was something really stimulating in their argument? Really stupid? Well what was it? You will conclude your paper with 2 to 3 questions that you want to see discussed in class. The paper and questions should be submitted to each of the course participants by 5:00 pm Monday. An e-mail distribution list will be prepared during the first course meeting, and that will be used to distribute your paper. You should read the commentaries from other participants before coming to class. One week during the semester, you may “pass” on writing a reaction paper. You are, however, still required to do the readings, read the commentaries of other students, and attend the seminar.

Students will also be required to write a term paper. This paper may take one of several forms. It may be a critical literature review, a research proposal, or a paper reporting some empirical research. We will talk more about this paper as the semester progresses. The important thing now is to begin thinking about possible topics for your paper. The paper topic and form (proposal, research project, lit review) must be approved by me by the sixth week of the semester.

Course grades will be determined on the following basis. Twenty-five percent of the grade will be based on reaction papers and seminar participation throughout the semester. Seventy-five percent of the grade will be based on the final research paper.

**Schedule of Sessions**

**16 January  Introductions**

This meeting will be used to introduce seminar participants the topics and issues that will be discussed over the course of the semester. There are no readings for this meeting.

**Jan. 23  Democracy & Globalization  Guest Speaker: John O’Loughlin**

This meeting will explore the debates about the diffusion and globalization of democracy. These debates provide the context for future discussions about different meanings of democracy and about the roles of civil society, the state, and market.

Readings for this meeting include a celebration of democracy’s diffusion (Huntington), more scholarly and reserved analyses of it (O’Loughlin, et al, and Diamond) and an article from the popular press that questions the viability of democracy in the context of globalization (Kaplan).


**Jan 30 Basic Concepts: Citizenship**

This week, we begin consideration of some of the basic concepts, institutions, and practices that shape democracy. We begin with ideas about citizenship – a concept to which we will return several times over the course of the semester. This week’s readings present several different views of citizenship that draw from different theoretical perspectives (liberal, communitarian, and feminist) and from different historical and geographical contexts (primarily the US and Europe).


**Feb 6 Basic Concepts: Publicity and Privacy**

This week’s readings concentrate on the development of a public sphere for political discourse and the relations between publicity and privacy. In much political theory, the public is the space of politics, but feminist and radical theories challenge the idea that politics is only – or even primarily – public.


Fraser, N. (1992). Rethinking the Public Sphere: A Contribution to the Critique of Actually Existing Democracy. *Social Text*.

Feb. 13 Basic Concepts: Civil Society and Community

This week’s reading follow from the discussions of public and private assess the ideas of civil society and community. In these readings (which are drawn from several different settings), the roles of civil society, community, and their implications for inclusion and citizenship are critically assessed.


Feb. 20 Basic Concepts: State Institutions and Scale

This week, we will discuss the extent to which democracy is something that is or can be limited to the state. In particular, the readings focus on two questions: 1) the extent to which the operations of democratic institutions in the context of inequality can lead to a society or outcome that we might also call democratic, and 2) the ways in which scale complicates our understandings of how democratic institutions operate.


The next four weeks focus on case studies of democratization in various regions of the world. Each case study will be presented by a guest speaker. Their specific topics and readings will be announced two weeks prior to the date they will be in the seminar.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Guest Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Jim Scarritt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 6</td>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>Sam Fitch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 13</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>Rachel Silvey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 20</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Vladimir Kolossov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 27</td>
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<td>Spring Break!!!!!!!!!</td>
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In the final weeks of the semester, we will focus our attention on contemporary controversies that stand to challenge our current understandings of democracy – its meanings, forms, and practices. I have listed some tentative topics. At the end of February, we will agree as a seminar on a final list of topics and develop a reading list for each week.

| Apr. 3  | Immigration            |
| Apr. 10 | Communications and Information Technologies |
| Apr. 17 | Global Governance and Human Rights         |
| Apr. 24 | No class: Work on papers                     |
| May 1   | Conclusions: Debating Democracy                |

There will be no additional readings for this meeting.