

PIA3111: DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIZATION

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Democracy and Democratization

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

3111

Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

SA3111 Democracy and Democratization / POL3111 Democracy and Democratization

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course examines the basic features of democracy, its definitions, the causes of its emergence, as well as its strengths and problems. The course also examines the waves of democratization in the modern world, with particular emphasis on the global spread of democracies in the late 20th century and beyond, and applies the concepts of democracy and democratization to controversial questions like whether democracy is a universal value, whether it can promote human rights, whether there is an inherent conflict between Asian values and democracy, and whether democracy is favourable or unfavourable to economic development. The course attempts to assess some major challenges facing democracy in the twenty-first century, including those stemming from globalization. Students are required to critically evaluate the democratization process in societies in Asia and elsewhere.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Detect and identify the basic features of democracy and democratization.		x	x	
2	Examine and recognize the major challenges for developing democracy in the world.		x	x	
3	Assess and consider controversial questions concerning democracy and democratization.		x	x	
4	Apply the concepts to evaluate the democratic development of societies in Asia and elsewhere		x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Explain concepts, theories, empirical data and raise questions for discussions.	1, 2, 3, 4	2 hrs/13 weeks
2	Class discussion	Class discussion on some critical issues related to democracy and democratization in some actual states with short in-class short exercises.	1, 2, 3, 4	1 hr/ 13 weeks
3	Group research	Each student to join a group of three or four, which will be tasked with writing a democratic constitution for a country of their choosing	1, 2, 3, 4	

4	Reading of reference materials and/or participation in online discussion	Read three or more assigned papers, book chapters, current affair commentaries and the relevant lecture notes per week and participate in Canvas' online discussion with fellow students and/or instructors on current issues related to democracy and democratization	1, 2, 3, 4	6hrs/week
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Group assignment	1, 2, 3, 4	30	-	No
2	Group presentation	1, 2, 3, 4	10	-	No
3	Midterm quiz	1, 2, 3, 4	30	-	No
4	Final quiz	1, 2, 3, 4	30	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Quizzes

Criterion

Ability to critically evaluate and explain the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and to apply knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in Asia and beyond.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and outstanding application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in Asia and beyond. Strong ability to identify key challenges. Highly innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and sound application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in Asia and beyond. Good ability to identify key challenges. Innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Satisfactory understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and appropriate application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in Asia and beyond. Average ability to identify key challenges. A few innovative ideas when analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.

Marginal (D)

Limited understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and weak application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in Asia and beyond. Below average ability to identify key challenges. Lack of innovative ideas when analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.

Failure (F)

Poor understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and weak application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in Asia and beyond. Poor ability to identify key challenges. No innovative ideas when analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.

Assessment Task

Group assignment and presentation

Criterion

Demonstrate a capacity to apply concepts and ideas related to democracy and democratization in a systematic and precise manner to devise innovative solutions for real-world cases, both orally and in written form.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Outstanding application of concepts and ideas related to democracy and democratization to devise solutions for real-world cases. Excellent discussion, writing and presentation skills with innovative and original ideas.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good application of concepts and ideas related to democracy and democratization to devise solutions for real-world cases. Very competent discussion, writing and presentation skills with some innovative and original ideas.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Competent application of concepts and ideas related to democracy and democratization to devise solutions for real-world cases. Competent discussion, writing and presentation skills with some innovative and original ideas.

Marginal (D)

Limited application of concepts and ideas related to democracy and democratization to devise solutions for real-world cases. Weak discussion, writing and presentation skills with few innovative and original ideas.

Failure (F)

Very weak application of concepts and ideas related to democracy and democratization to devise solutions for real-world cases. Poor discussion, writing and presentation skills with inappropriate or irrelevant ideas.

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Democracy; democratization; authoritarianism; totalitarianism; human rights; Asian values; socio-economic development; modernization theory; elite-choice theory; state and civil society; social cleavages; political culture; political legitimacy; critics of democracy; conditions for democratic development; globalization; waves of democratization.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Dahl, Robert A. 2020. On Democracy. Yale University Press.
2	Diamond, Larry. 2011. “Democracy’ s Third Wave Today.” Current History 110: 299-307.
3	Huntington, Samuel P. 1968. Political Order in Changing Societies. Yale University Press
4	Huntington, Samuel P. 1991. The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century. University of Oklahoma Press.
5	Kurlantzick, Joshua. 2013. Democracy in Retreat: The Revolt of the Middle Class and the Worldwide Decline of Representative Government. Yale University Press.
6	Lijphart, Arend. 2004. “Constitutional Design for Divided Societies.” Journal of Democracy 15:96–109.
7	Linz, Juan J. and Alfred Stepan. 1996. “Toward Consolidated Democracies.” Journal of Democracy 7: 14-33.
8	Olson, Mancur. 1993. “Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development.” American Political Science Review 87: 567-576.
9	Przeworski, Adam. 2009. “The Mechanics of Regime Instability in Latin America.” Journal of Politics in Latin America 1: 5–36.
10	Sartori, Giovanni. 1997. Comparative Constitutional Engineering: An Inquiry into Structures, Incentives, and Outcomes. 2nd ed. New York: New York University Press.
11	Schmitter, Philippe C. and Terry Lynn Karl. 1991. “What Democracy Is··· and Is Not.” Journal of Democracy 2: 75-88.
12	Ziblatt, Daniel. 2006. “How Did Europe Democratize?” World Politics 58: 311–38.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Dahl, Robert A. 1989. Democracy and Its Critics. Yale University Press. [Read: Ch. 3-6]
2	Haerpfer, Christian W., Patrick Bernhagen, Christian Welzel, and Ronald F. Inglehart (eds.), Democratization. Oxford University Press.
3	Haynes, Jeffrey. 2011. Routledge Handbook of Democratization. Oxon: Routledge.
4	Møller, Jørgen and Svend-Erik Skaaning. 2013. Democracy and Democratization in Comparative Perspective Conceptions, Conjunctures, Causes, and Consequences. Oxon: Routledge.
5	Runciman, David. 2018. How Democracy Ends. London: Profile Books.
6	Slater, Dan and Joseph Wong. 2022. From Development to Democracy: The Transformations of Modern Asia. Cambridge University Press.
7	Sørensen, Georg. 2008. Democracy and Democratization: Processes and Prospects in a Changing World, Third Edition. Boulder: Westview Press.
8	Zakaria, Fareed. 2003. The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad. New York & London: W. W. Norton & Co.