

Dictatorship to Democracy

Dr. Gregory P. Williams

Dept. Political Science, University of Northern Colorado, Fall 2019

Office hours: McKee 305, MW, 1:30-2:30, and by appointment

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Registration: PSCI 317 (15394), 2:30-3:20

Course Description

What does democracy mean? Does it emerge over time, or can it be designed? What causes nations to move towards, or away from, democracy? The closer one gets to pinning-down the many meanings of democracy, the more difficult such questions become. This course explores democracy, its connections to society and elites, and takes stock of extra-national influences on democracy, such as war and capitalism. By the end of the semester, students should be able to develop critical perspectives on the nature of democracy.

Books

Berman, Sheri. 2019. *Democracy and Dictatorship in Europe: From the Ancien Régime to the Present Day*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 9780199373192 [DDE]

Cook, Steven A. 2019. *False Dawn: Protest, Democracy, and Violence in the Middle East*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 9780190931759 [FD]

Diamond, Larry. 2019. *Ill Winds: Saving Democracy from Russian Rage, Chinese Ambition, and American Complacency*. New York: Penguin. 9780525560623 [Ill Winds]

Expectations and Grades

- 1) Participation (15%). You should do the reading before coming to class each day. Be prepared to offer your ideas and questions about the material as well as take an in-class quiz.
- 2) Summaries and Question (25%). Twice you will be asked to help lead a discussion on that day's topic. One day, you will orally summarize the reading for your classmates, and hand in a one to two-page written summary. (When you present, please speak extemporaneously or from notes. Do not read your summary.) On a separate occasion, you will ask three to five critical questions to spark a class discussion, and hand in your questions in writing.
- 3) Papers (60%). Twice this semester, you will submit formal papers. Please see the handout, "Paper Guidelines," for specific instructions.

Three Notes: Attendance, Conduct, and Disability Resources

1) You are expected to be in class for each session. Poor attendance will negatively affect your grade. 2) While in class, students are expected to treat one another with respect and hold themselves to high academic standards. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will likely fail the course and may face disciplinary action. 3) Students who believe they might benefit from the Disability Resource Center should contact its office at the start of the semester (970-351-2289; www.unco.edu/disability-resource-center). Please feel free, of course, to contact the instructor with any questions or concerns.

Course Schedule

Dictatorship, Democracy, and Back Again

Monday, August 26th: Welcome

Wednesday, August 28th: What is Democracy? The Minimalists and the Maximalists

Larry Diamond, “Timeline: Democracy in Recession,” *The New York Times* (September 15, 2015).

Roberto Foa and Yascha Mounk, “Across the Globe, a Growing Disillusionment With Democracy,” *The New York Times* (September 15, 2015).

Friday, August 30th: Why Have Democracy? Part 1

Film: “What is Democracy?” Astra Taylor, dir. National Film Board of Canada (2018): <https://source.unco.edu/record=b3087846~S4>.

Monday, September 2nd: No Class—Labor Day

[Take some time to think about the labor movement and its political dilemmas, such as with this article: Liza Featherstone, “Socialists Need to Be Part of the Labor Movement,” *Jacobin* (August 19, 2019): <https://jacobinmag.com/2019/08/nyc-dsa-labor-movement-unions-politico-seiu>.]

Wednesday, September 4th: Why Have Democracy? Part 2

Finish film

Friday, September 6th: Electoral and Constitutional Choices (SMD, PR, Presidential, Parliamentary, Semi-Presidential)

Richard W. Soudriette and Andrew Ellis, “Electoral Systems Today: A Global Snapshot,” *Journal of Democracy* 17, no. 2 (2006): 78-88.

(Optional)→ Robert Elgie, “Semi-presidentialism, Cohabitation and the Collapse of

Electoral Democracies, 1990-2008,” *Government and Opposition* 45, no. 1 (2010): 29-49.

Monday, September 9th: State Power (Unitary, Federal, Ethnofederal)

Henry Hale, “Divided We Stand: Institutional Sources of State Survival and Collapse,” *World Politics* 56 (2004): 165-193.

Wednesday, September 11th: Social, Elite, and Economic Causes of Democracy

Adam Przeworski and Fernando Limongi, "Modernization: Theories and Facts," *World Politics* 49:2 (1997), pp. 155-183.

Friday, September 13th: The Problem of Trajectory 1: Democracy Without Consolidation

Perry Anderson, “Russia’s Managed Democracy,” *London Review of Books* 29, no. 2 (2007).

Monday, September 16th: The Problem of Trajectory 2: Illiberalism, Hybridity, and Cycles of Movement Between Democratic-leaning and Autocratic-leaning Forms

Fareed Zakaria, “The Rise of Illiberal Democracy,” *Foreign Affairs* 76, no. 6 (1997): 22-43.

Fareed Zakaria, “America’s democracy has become illiberal,” *Washington Post* (December 29, 2016).

Democratization in Europe

Wednesday, September 18th: Europe and National Change

DDE, Ch. 1: Questions about Political Development (pp. 1-14)

DDE, Ch. 2: The Ancien Régime (pp. 15-28)

Friday, September 20th: The Revolution Will Not Happen

DDE, Ch. 3: English Exceptionalism (pp. 29-48)

Monday, September 23rd: Let Them Eat Cake

DDE, Ch. 4: The French Revolution (pp. 49-76)

Wednesday, September 25th: All Is Forgotten... Excuse me, Forgiven... No, Just Forgotten

DDE, Ch. 5: 1848 (pp. 77-105)

Paper 1 topic handed out

Friday, September 27th: Class Structure, Preserved

DDE, Ch. 10: English Exceptionalism II (pp. 185-213)

Monday, September 30th: Radical Change on the Continent
DDE, Ch. 13: Political Development in Spain (pp. 257-283)

Wednesday, October 2nd: Paper 1 Due

Friday, October 4th: Dilemmas of Left Parties
Adam Przeworski, "Social Democracy as a Historical Phenomenon," *New Left Review* I/122 (1980): 27-58.

Monday, October 7th: Left Parties Change Course
Stephanie L. Mudge, *Leftism Reinvented* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2018).
Ch. 3: "From Socialist, to Economistic, to Neoliberalized Leftism" (pp. 43-68)

Decolonization and Democracy in Africa

Wednesday, October 9th: The Struggle for Independence
Frantz Fanon, *Alienation and Freedom* (London: Bloomsbury, 2018).
Part III, Ch. 3: National independence: The only possible outcome (pp. 549-556)
Part III, Ch. 7: Once again: The reason for precondition (pp. 575-580)

Friday, October 11th: The Bigotry of Colonialism
Frantz Fanon, *Alienation and Freedom* (London: Bloomsbury, 2018).
Part III, Ch. 13: Ultracolonialism's rationale (pp. 601-606)
Part III, Ch. 21: Africa accuses the west (pp. 645-652)

Monday, October 14th: Revolutions Are Violent Affairs
Frantz Fanon, *Alienation and Freedom* (London: Bloomsbury, 2018).
Part III, Ch. 22: Why we use violence (pp. 653-661)
Part III, Ch. 23: The stooges of imperialism (pp. 661-667)

Wednesday, October 16th: Expectations for the 21st Century
Immanuel Wallerstein, *The Modern World-System and Africa* (New York: Diasporic Africa Press, 2017). Ch. 4 1995/2017: "What Hope Africa? What Hope the World?" 41-65.

Friday, October 18th: Reasons for Optimism
Judd Devermont and Jon Temin, "Africa's Democratic Moment?" *Foreign Affairs* (July-August 2019): 131-143

The Arab Spring

Monday, October 21st: The Revolution of 2011

FD, all prefatory and introductory material (pp. xi-xlii, 1-12)

Wednesday, October 23rd: Beginnings

FD, Ch. 1: Freedom's Ride (pp. 13-52)

Friday, October 25th: Catch up on course material

Monday, October 28th: Demands

FD, Ch. 2: Bread! Freedom! Social Justice! (pp. 53-98)

Wednesday, October 30th: Falling apart

FD, Ch. 3: Unraveling (pp. 99-142)

Friday, November 1st: Postmortem (part i)

FD, Ch. 4: What Went Wrong (1st half, pp. 143-about 170)

Monday, November 4th: Postmortem (part ii)

FD, Ch. 4: What Went Wrong (2nd half, pp. about 170-200)

Wednesday, November 6th: FD, Ch. 5: "Getting the Middle East Right" (pp. 201-235)

Crisis of Democracy

Friday, November 8th: The World Today

Ill Winds, Ch. 1: The Crisis (pp. 1-14)

Monday, November: 11th: Failure, An Explanation

Ill Winds, Ch. 2: Why Democracies Succeed and Fail (pp. 15-40)

Wednesday, November 13th: Democratic Backslide

Ill Winds, Ch. 3: The March and Retreat of Democracy (pp. 41-58)

Friday, November 15th: Authoritarian Populism (Or, the Anti-Democrat Garners Public Support)

Ill Winds, Ch. 4: The Authoritarian Temptation (pp. 59-80)

Monday, November 18th: Democrats are Losers: Trumpism, Part I

Ill Winds, Ch. 5: The Decline of American Democracy (pp. 81-108)

Wednesday, November 20th: Democrats are Losers: Trumpism, Part II
TBA

Friday, November 22nd: Russia
Ill Winds, Ch. 6: Russia's Global Assault (pp. 109-126)

Monday, November 25th: Hungary
Freedom House, *Breaking Down Democracy* (2017). Ch. 5: The Rise of "Illiberal Democracy" (pp. 35-41)

Wednesday, November 27th: No Class—Thanksgiving Break

Friday, November 29th: No Class—Thanksgiving Break

Monday, December 2nd: China
Ill Winds, Ch. 7: China's Stealth Offensive (pp. 127-147)

Wednesday, December 4th: Democracy Promotion
Ill Winds, Ch. 11: A Foreign Policy for Freedom (pp. 199-226)
Final paper topic handed out

Friday, December 6th: The Future of Democracy

Wednesday, December 11th at 1:30: Final Paper Due