

San Jose State University

Fall 2016

Political Science 190--Senior Seminar¹

BBC 326, MW 10:30-11:45

Prof. Danopoulos

Clark Hall 402E, Office Hours: MW 8:00-9:00, 12:00-1:00, and by appointment

Tel. 924-5555, Email: constantine.danopoulos@sjsu.edu

Course Description

This course will explore the complex world of democracy and democratic politics, with special emphasis on issues associated with the quality of democracy. The class will engage in a semester-long discussion of the meaning of democracy, the process of transition to democracy, democratic consolidation and sustenance, as well as assessing the quality of democracy. Students will be encouraged to explore the benefits and possible shortcomings of democratic governance, especially in light of the current and ongoing economic crisis. To this end, students will be expected to keep up with news of how democracies respond to the challenges and changing dynamics of the political and economic situation around the world.

Students must be committed to participating in class discussions as the course will be run like a graduate seminar rather than a standard lecture course. For those considering going to graduate school or law school, this course will be an easing into learning at the post-graduate level. Students will make substantial presentations on the various theoretical topics assigned by the professor (see section on course assignments and reading outline below). Seminar participants will be required to prepare an outline of the reading they signed up to report. The outline must be sent via email to every seminar participant and the instructor the day before the presentation. All assignments are required reading for every class member as you will be tested on all class material. Topics and reading assignments are firm and changes in the schedule will not be permitted. Missed presentations cannot be made up and will affect the course grade. In a word, attendance is required, especially the days seminar members are discussion leaders (presenters).

In addition to the theoretical presentation(s), each student will give a substantive presentation on his/her research paper (see below for more details re paper assignment.)

Class Attendance

As the grading scale below indicates, a major portion of the class grade (30%) will be based on class participation. As such, class **attendance is required**. Missing class will result in lower grade. Missing class three (3) times will lower your grade by 10%, five (5) times by 20%, and six (6) or more times by 40%.

¹ POLS 190H. It is an added one unit of upper division credit. It is open to students with 3.2 overall GPA and 3.5 in Political Science.

Reading Material

1. Larry Diamond, **In Search of Democracy**. London and New York: Routledge, 2016. ISBN: 978-0415-78128-2. This book must be purchased by every seminar participant as it will provide much of the theoretical material for our class discussions. It also contains a number of case studies that would be helpful to your own research/thesis project.
2. There will be **additional reading assignments**. For readings listed below see course CANVAS

Grading and Graded Assignments

Course grade will be determined as follows:

Oral Presentation(s) 20%

Class Participation 30%

Midterm 10%

Short Paper 10%

Long Paper 30%

Presentations:

Students will make TWO presentations. The first presentation will be on an assignment from the list of readings and the second on your research project. Presentations must be substantive, well structured, and should be about 15-20 minutes long. As stated previously, students will be required to prepare an outline of the reading(s) they have signed up to report. The outline must be sent to each seminar participant and the instructor the day before. Presentations must summarize the key points in the reading and should serve as points of departure for class discussion. Every seminar member is responsible for ALL reading assignment and must participate in class discussions. Missed presentations cannot be made up and will result in lowering your course grade.

The second presentation will involve a summary of student research/thesis assignment. Paper presentations will come toward the end of the semester and will include a 20-25 minute summary of the findings. Presenters must provide an outline to class members the night before the presentation.

Written Assignments

Each student will submit two papers in the course of the semester: a short (4-5 pages) and a long (19-20 pages).

Short Paper

The short paper (10% of the grade) will answer the following question. Winston Churchill said: “**Democracy is the worst form of government, except of all others.**” What did he mean by that and why? I am looking for a 4-5 page essay in which you will take a position on Churchill’s assertion and discuss and analyze the reasons. **The paper will be due on Monday, October 3, 2016.**

Thesis/Long Paper:

In addition, a lengthier paper (19-20 double spaced pages) is also required (30% of the grade). Each student should pick a country governed by a government that meets democratic criteria and assess the quality of its democracy. Freedom House provides a list of countries that are functioning democracies. Seminar members are encouraged to select a case study that appeals to their particular interests. Student need to pick a topic/country/case study by the end of 3th week of class (September 17). The thesis must include:

1. An introductory statement and a statement of purpose;
2. Review of relevant literature;
3. A Brief section on methodology;
4. Presentation of data and analysis; and
5. Conclusion.

The paper must be **19-20 double-spaced pages and must be properly documented and referenced. Honors students are required to submit a longer paper (22-23 double-spaced pages)**. Any attribution style is acceptable as long as it is followed properly and consistently. The professor will discuss in class issues relating to topic selection, attribution, review of literature, methodology, sources, and data analysis. If you wish to get comments from the professor, you must turn in the first draft of your paper no later than **Wednesday, November 21, 2016**. The final version is due on **Wednesday, December 14, 2016**. **You must submit both a hard copy as well as an electronic version (in WORD).**

Data Sources:

For data on the various aspects of the quality of democracy go to:

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Democracy Index

Freedom House

Bertlsmann Stiftung Democracy Status

World Bank's Doing Business

World Economic Forum: The Global Competitiveness Report

Transparency International Comparative Perceptions Index. This is limited to corruption but can be very helpful.

Google Scholar can be an excellent source for scholarly works on the quality of democracy.

FREEDOM HOUSE, and the ECONOMIST Quality of Democracy Index are good sources of data.

For more information and additional data sources see, chapter 3 in Diamond, **In Search of Democracy**, pp. 46-75.

A Note on Sources:

Keep in mind that you are making a serious attempt to write a scholarly paper. As such, the majority of your paper must be based on scholarly sources and not on information retrieved from popular magazines or on-line information. You will be allowed to use a few popular magazine or on-line sources, but the bulk must be based on scholarly publications (books or articles published in scholarly journals, such as the *Journal of Democracy*). The following are criteria distinguishing between scholarly and popular magazine sources.

	<i>Scholarly</i>	<i>Popular</i>
Length	Longer articles, providing in-depth analysis of topics	Shorter articles, providing broader overviews of topics
Authorship	Author usually an expert or specialist in the field, name credentials always provided	Author usually a staff writer or a journalist, name and credentials often not provided
Language/ Audience	Written in the jargon of the field for scholarly readers (professors, researchers, or students)	Written in non-technical language for anyone to understand
Format/ Structure	Articles usually more structured, may include these sections: abstract, literature review, methodology, results, conclusion, bibliography	Articles do not necessarily follow a specific format or structure
Special Features	Illustrations that support the text, such as tables of statistics, graphs maps, or photographs	Illustrations with glossy or color photographs, usually for advertising purposes
Editors	Articles usually reviewed and critically evaluated by a board of experts in the field (refereed)	Articles are not evaluated by experts in the field, but by editors on staff
Credits	A bibliography (works cited) and/or footnotes are always provided to document research thoroughly	A bibliography (works cited) is usually not provided, although names of reports or references may be mentioned in the text

University Policy Regarding Academic Honesty :

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires that you be honest in all your course work. Faculty members are required to all infractions, no matter how minor, to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. Any work done for another course, current or past, cannot be turned in for further credit in this course. If you are unsure of the policy on Academic Integrity, please see the information on the university website:

http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_F06_1.pdf

Special Needs:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with the professor or visit him during office hours as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must be registered with the DRC to establish a record of their disability.

Midterm Examination:

There will be a midterm examination (**Wednesday, October 12**) of the essay type. Students will be tested on the theoretical material. This will include all assigned readings and class discussions. Study questions will be provided a week or in advance. Bring large-size bluebook.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments:

August 24, Course Introduction

Read: no reading assignment

August 29, Lecture on topic selection, paper structure, documentation and attribution

Read: no reading assignment

August 31, Democracy: Origins and Foundations

Read: Robert A. Dahl, Where and How did Democracy Develop?, pp. 7-25 in his book, *On Democracy*

Presenter:

Read: Samuel Huntington, "Democracy's Third Wave," *Journal of Democracy*, Spring 1991.

Presenter: in-class discussion

September 5, Labor Day—No Class

September 7, Library Tutorial, Go to MLK 217

September 12, Defining Democracy

Read: Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, "What Democracy Is...And Is Not," *Journal of Democracy*, Summer 1991.

Presenter:

Read: Guillermo O'Donnell, "Delegative Democracy," *Journal of Democracy*, January 1994

Presenter:

September 14, Library Assignment

September 19, Transition and Consolidation

Read: Alfred Stepan, "On the Task of a Democratic Opposition," *Journal of Democracy*, Spring 1990.

Presenter:

Read: Alfred Stepan, "Religion, Democracy and the Twin Tolerations," *Journal of Democracy*, October 2000.

Presenter:

September 21, Transition Difficulties

Read: Why Are There no Arab Democracies?, chapter 9 (pp.160-172) in Diamond, *In Search of Democracy*

Presenter:

Read: Hybrid Regimes, chapter 8 (pp.147-159) in Diamond, *In Search of Democracy*

Presenter:

September 26, Sustaining Democracy: Culture and Civic Engagement

Read: Lawrence Harrison, Why Culture Matters? (pp. xvii-xxxiv) in Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington, eds., *Culture Matters*

Presenter:

Read: Civil Society and Democratic Consolidation, chapter 6 (pp. 118-131) in Diamond, *In Search of Democracy*

Presenter:

September 28, Consultation re Topic Selection

October 3, Institutional Dimensions

Read: Promoting Real Reform in Africa, chapter 14 (pp. 264-292) in Diamond, *In Search of Democracy*

Presenter:

Read: Fareed Zakaria, "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy," *Foreign Affairs* 76:6 (Nov./Dec, 1997, pp.22-43

Presenter:

October 5, Library Assignment

October 10, Corruption and Democracy

Read: John Garinger, Defining Corruption, pp. 25-40) in Arnold Heiderheimer and Michael Johnson, eds., *Political Corruption*

Presenter:

Read: Susan Rose-Ackerman, When Corruption is Harmful? (pp.353-371) in Heidenheimer and Johnson, eds., *Political Corruption*

Presenter:

Monday, October 12, Midterm Examination--bring large-size bluebook

October 17, Library Assignment

October 19, The Quality of Democracy

Read: Leonardo Morlino, The Quality of Democracy, chapter 2 (pp. 33-45) in Diamond, *In Search of Democracy*

Presenter:

Read: Liberation Technology, chapter 7 (pp. 132-146) in Diamond, *In Search of Democracy*

Presenter:

October 24, Quality of Democracy: The Rule of Law

Read: Guillermo O'Donnell, Why the Rule of Law Matters, *Journal of Democracy*, October 2004

Presenter:

Read: The Rule of Law Versus the Big Man, chapter 13 (pp.252-263) in Diamond, *In Search of Democracy*
Presenter:

October 26, Assessing the Quality of Democracy: Accountability

Read: Andreas Schedler, Conceptualizing Accountability, chapter 2 (pp.13-28) in Andreas Schedler, Larry Diamond, and Marc Plattner, eds., *The Self-Sustaining State: Power and Accountability in New Democracies*

Presenter:

Read: G. Bingham Powell, The Chain of Responsiveness, (62-76) in Diamond and Morlino, eds., *Assessing the Quality of Democracy*

Presenter:

October 31, Library Assignment

November 2, Assessing the Quality of Democracy: Performance

Read: Empowering the Poor, chapter 21 (pp. 385-397) in Diamond, *In Search of Democracy*

Presenter:

Read: Is Democracy in Decline? Chapter 4 (pp. 76-100) in Diamond, *In Search of Democracy*

Presenter:

November 7, Library Assignment

Research Paper Presentations

November 9

Presenters:

November 14

Presenters:

November 16

Presenters:

November 21

Presenters:

November 23, Library Assignment

November 28

Presenters:

November 30

Presenters:

December 5

Presenters:

December 7

Presenters:

Final paper is due on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 10:00 AM. Electronic and Hard submissions.