This course covers the basic principles, theories, conceptual tools, and comparative methods useful for understanding the challenges of democracy. Attempts at state-building in Afghanistan and Iraq have highlighted concern about democracy promotion in the U.S. foreign policy agenda, although this is far from a new issue. Since the early-1990s, the international development community has increasingly focused attention on the challenges of facilitating the transition from autocracy and the consolidation of democratic states, with the understanding that effective democratic governance encourages and complements the activities of the private and non-profit sectors, allowing markets to flourish and people to live healthier, happier lives. The process of democratization develops institutions and processes that are more accountable and responsive to the needs of ordinary citizens, including the poor. Moreover, democratic governance is also believed to promote international peace and cooperation, reducing the causes of conflict and violence between and within states.

Grades will be based on an two essays (30%), and a research paper (40%). Class participation is strongly encouraged and is worth 30% of your final grade.

Grade Scale

A=90-100%; B=80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69%; F=less than 60%

Course Grades

Course grades are based on the following:

40% Research Paper
30% Essays
30% Class Participation

Required Texts

EVERYTHING WILL BE ON BLACKBOARD OR EMAILED TO YOU!

Class Participation and Attendance (30%)
This course is a seminar, not a lecture series. It is your responsibility, as well as mine, to come to class prepared to discuss the information and claims found in the readings and explore related research possibilities. If any of us shirk, we all lose. I expect no absences in the course, and I encourage you to discuss any circumstances with me that will preclude you from attending class. I also expect you to arrive on time. If you do need to miss class, please contact me ahead of time to let me know that you will not be able to attend and to make arrangements to complete an alternate assignment. A large portion of my overall evaluation of your performance in the course will depend on the quality of your seminar participation.

Grades for participation (including discussion questions and attendance) will be assigned at the end of the semester, but you may ask for feedback on your performance at any time. If you have concerns about the quality and quantity of your participation in the course, I hope you will speak to me. Remember, this is a seminar, so just showing up to class is not enough. You must come to class prepared to participate in an informed discussion of the issues raised by the week’s readings. If you just show up to every class, but never say a word, you can expect to receive a D or lower for class participation (30% of your grade).

The following general grading scale will be used for participation and preparation:

- **A**: The student made a very strong contribution to the course. Class discussion, comments, and presentations reflected understanding and analysis of the material, and were constructive. Constructive means that a student does not simply identify a weakness or problem. Rather, constructive comments identify a problem and offer suggestions for how to address the weakness or problem.

- **B**: The student contributed meaningfully to the course. Class participation and/or presentations went beyond repeating the assigned material, perhaps identifying weaknesses in the current literature, but did not make many constructive suggestions about how weaknesses might be overcome or how the literature might be usefully extended in the future.

- **C**: The student did not contribute meaningfully to the seminar. Class participation and/or presentations were limited to repeating the assigned material rather than making connections or extensions.

- **D or lower**: The student attended class, but did not participate in discussions or present meaningful questions for academic debate.

Keep in mind that the purpose of the seminar is to engage in informed group discussion: we are not interested in uninformed opinion. This means that students should closely and critically read each book or article on the reading list, and spend time thinking about what each contributes to the topic that week and to conflict studies in general. Class discussion will focus on such issues as the theoretical arguments being made (both explicitly and implicitly), the empirical evidence that is marshaled to test these arguments, weaknesses of the work, and potential directions for future study.

Finally, because we will engage in vigorous academic debate during class, classroom etiquette is vital. Please work to ensure that you make comments in ways that invite discussion. Our
classroom contains members with various life experiences, divergent perspectives, varying levels of experience with political science research, and different strategies for defending their views. Please state your opinions constructively and respectfully, listen carefully when your colleagues are speaking, and speak to me if you are offended by something that is said in class. If you do not follow these guidelines, your participation grade will be adversely affected.

**Essays (30%)**

There will be two 3-4 page essays assigned this semester. The first essay, covering the documentary film “The Square” will be due on March 24th and further instructions on the essay’s content will be provided later. The second essay, covering the documentary film “Hearts and Minds”, will be due May 5th and further instructions on the essay’s content will be provided later.

**Research Paper (40%)**

Another requirement is an original research paper. This paper will be devoted to a case study of a country undergoing democratic transition within the last 50 years. Did the country successfully consolidate its democracy?

The following should be addressed:

- Is the country currently a democracy? If so, how strong of a democracy? Would you consider the democracy to be consolidated?
- What was the country’s form of government prior to transition?
- The history of the country’s relationship with the U.S.
  - The role of the U.S. in the democratic transition
- The country’s current level of development and how they reached that level
- The impact of the international community on the country’s development and government
- How has democratizing impacted the country’s economic development?

Quantitative methods can be employed if desired, and depending on the student’s methodological training, but the general structure of the paper is still case study. In any case, it must be analytical and theoretical in nature rather than strictly descriptive. The final paper must be 10-15 pages in length, and should be comparable to an academic journal article in style. Please note that this must be an original paper for this course, and cannot overlap in any substantial way with a paper written for another course; if there is any question please talk to me about it and bring me a copy of the other paper. There will be two components of this part of the course:

1. A one page proposal that is due by the beginning of class on February 12th (worth 10% of the course grade).

2. A final version of the research paper to be handed in (not emailed in) at 11:00 am on May 12th (worth 30% of the course grade).
The paper will be graded on the clarity and contribution of the theory as an addition to the literature on Democratization. These papers will be expected to conform to the submission standards of the American Journal of Political Science. The final paper must be printed and turned in—e-mailed attachments will not be accepted.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 

Outcome Assessments

Examinations and a term paper will be used to assess the learning outcomes. The first five learning outcome will be assessed through essay and identification terms on midterm and final examinations. The sixth and seventh outcomes will be assessed based on a term paper and oral debates and class participation.

Course Policies:
You are expected to come prepared for class and to make thoughtful contribution in class. If you do not understand something, ask. It is very important that we discuss issues related to government and their impact on the community. You should be exposed to a variety of opinions that may differ from your own. Respect those opinions and use them to help you reflect on why people hold different views.

Class lectures provide the basis for the course. Concepts and information that I deem important will be presented in class. Regular and consistent attendance is essential if you want to do well in the course.

Class Attendance:
All students are expected to attend EVERY class. The major valid excuses for missing a class are illness and death. In order to maximize attendance, I will take random roll call using sign-in sheets throughout the semester. If you have an excused absence (university-related, illness with M.D. excuse), you must bring me documentation. I may issue extra credit points at random based on attendance at my discretion.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the
presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a grade of F.

Dropping a Class

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

Classroom/professional behavior

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Academic Etiquette:
There are certain rules that apply to my classes. It is difficult to learn in an environment that is not conducive to learning. Such activities include: talking to neighbors during class, reading newspapers, walking in late and going up the central aisle, napping, walking out of class prior to being dismissed. It is disrespectful to me and to the class. If you do not abide by these rules, you will be asked to leave my class. **Please silence your cell phones during my class.**

Incompletes:
A grade of incomplete will be given only for extreme emergencies and will necessitate appropriate documentation. You must request a grade of “incomplete” and sign a form agreeing to the terms for a grade of I. However, you must have completed 75% of the coursework.

*Notice to Students with Disabilities:* The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.
**Academic Advising:** The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

***GRADE APPEALS PROCESS***: Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

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### Jan 22
**Introduction**

### Jan 27-29
**Defining Democracy**


### Feb 3-5
**Class Structure and Economic Development**


### Feb 10-12
**Democracy and Development**


### Feb 17-19
**Modernization Theory**


### Feb 24-26
**Modernization Theory?**

Mar 3-5  Civil Society

Mar 10-12  Political Culture
- Film: The Square

Mar 24-26  Political Culture II
- "The Square" Response Paper Due

Mar 31 – Apr 2  Party Systems

Apr 7 – 9  Party Systems II
- Film: Hearts and Minds

Apr 14 – 16  Electoral Systems

Apr 21-23  Presidential Vs. Parliamentary Systems
- Reading TBD

Apr 28-30  Economic Reform II

May 5  Conclusion
- Hearts and Minds Response Paper Due

Final Paper Due on Tuesday, May 12th, 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM