I. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has three primary objectives. The first is to help you to learn about what makes democracy succeed or fail in a given country. The second is to prepare you to design and carry out a social science research paper. The third is for you to become a critical consumer of other people’s research. By the end of this class you should not only be prepared to do research papers for upper level political science courses and/or a senior thesis, but you should also be able to evaluate the quality of arguments made to you by politicians, the media, and professors regarding democratization and other social science topics.

II. GRADING

Your final grade will be based on the following assignments. In addition, all students will receive a writing credit for this course.

50%: Daily analytical in-class writing assignments. We will have 24 class periods not including the first week of class. At the start of each class after the first week, students will receive 10 minutes to briefly answer an analytical question regarding the reading assignment for the day. Half of your grade will be based on the top 20 scores you receive. This means you can be absent 4 times before a lack of attendance will begin to hurt your grade. If you have to miss class for a University-sponsored event (such as an athletic competition or Model UN trip) you may make up the question outside of class. However, you must notify me that you need to make up the writing question before your absence to use this option. Otherwise no makeup options are available.

50%: Research paper. This component is broken down as follows:
- Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography (10% of final grade)
- Research Paper (40% of final grade)
III. READING ASSIGNMENTS

This course has two required textbooks. These books will help you understand the basics of designing, carrying out, and presenting a research project. Additionally, there will be articles to read that I post on the class website; these are marked with a * on the syllabus.


IV. COURSE SCHEDULE (* = READING AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD)

1-15 **Introduction**
Read: Syllabus and Course Policies, Skim Johnson Ch. 1

1-17 **What is social science research/ an academic argument?**
Read: Johnson Ch. 2

1-22 **What is democratization?**

Research: Begin to think about a potential case to study in your paper and whether you want to write with a partner

1/23 Last Day to Add Course

1-24 **Degrees of Democracy**


Research: Begin to think about a potential case to study in your paper and select a partner if you want to write with someone else
How can we explain why some countries become established democracies and others don’t?
Read: Johnson pages 60-70
Huntington, Chapter 2 “Why?” (pages 31-45)

Research: Begin to phrase your research question as a “why” question

Last Day to Make a Change in Credit-Only Designation or Drop Course without a “W”

Individual Conferences to discuss Paper Topic
Read: Baglione Chapters 1 & 2

Research: Write down your research question and turn it in today!

Literature Reviews / Finding Political Science Sources in Electronic Databases
Special Guest: Ms. Vaidyanathan from Richter Library
Read: Johnson Chapter 6

Research: Begin to look for sources for your paper.

How and Why to Cite Sources
Read: *UM Honor Code

Research: When collecting sources, be sure to collect all relevant bibliographic information!

Evaluating Sources

Research: Be sure to assess the quality of a source before you begin to use it!
2-14  

**Explaining Democratization: Theory #1: Class / Modernization**

Read:

Research: At the time your country democratized (or failed to), could it be considered “modern”? To answer this question you will need to gather indicators along the lines of those Lipset used.

2-19  

**Explaining Democratization: Theory #2: Economic Inequality**

Read:

Research: How is/was wealth distributed in your country at the time you consider? To answer this question, you will need to find the country’s GINI coefficient or other evidence of (in)equality.

2-21  

**Explaining Democratization: Theory #3: Culture/Civil Society**

Read:

Research: Characterize the type of civil society in your country by finding empirical indicators like those Putnam uses.
Explaining Democratization: Theory #4: National Unity

Read: * Rustow, Dankwart A. 1970. Transitions to Democracy: Toward A Dynamic Model. *Comparative Politics* 2 (3): Section I (pp. 337-341) and Sections IV and V (pp. 350-363)


Research: Assess the level of national unity in your country at the relevant time. What evidence can you find to support your view?

Explaining Democratization: Theory #5: Institutions


Research: If your country adopted democratic institutions at the time you study, what form of democracy did it adopt? Do you find any evidence to support the positions of the authors we read for today?

Explaining Democratization: Theory #6: International Factors

* Huntington pages 85-106

Research: What relevant international actors were there in your case? What role did they play?
3-6  **Review of Major Theories**
Read: No new assignment

Research: Continue researching how the above theories apply to your case.

3-18  **Critiquing Major Theories**
Read: Baglione Chapter 3

Research: Do any of the above theories fail in the case of your country?

3-20  **Hypotheses and Research Design**
Read: Johnson Chapter 5 (pp. 122-165 only), pp. 70-86

Research: Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography due today!

3-25  **Qualitative vs. Quantitative Methods**

Read:
Johnson pp. 42-44; 234-248
Baglione Chapter 7

Research: Continue researching your case

3-27  **Sampling and Measurement**

Read: Johnson Chapter 4 (pp. 88-109 only), 209-216; 225-228; 236-238


Research: Is a Freedom House score available for your country in the relevant time period?

*Note: Course may not be dropped after 3-28*
4-1  **Qualitative Methods: Participant Observation (+ Research Ethics)**

Read:
Johnson Chapter 8

Research: Continue researching your case.

4-3  **Class Cancelled: Midwest Political Science Association Meeting**

Reading: No assignment
Research: Continue researching your case.

4-8  **Personal Interviews/ Field Work Abroad**

*Special Guest: Dr. Giuliano*

Read:
Johnson pages 338-344

Research: Is it possible for you to do any interviews related to your case?

4-10  **Qualitative Methods: Document Analysis**

*Special Guest: Dr. Uscinski*

Read:
Johnson Chapter 9

Research: Are there any documents you can analyze for your case?
4-15  **Quantitative Methods: Survey Research**

Read:
Johnson pages 297-237
Read the World Value Studies Survey at http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/

Research: Are there any surveys you can use to get evidence for your paper?

4-17  **Quantitative Methods: Statistics**

Read:
Skim: Selections of Johnson Chapters 11-13
*(See reading guide on course website for what to read)*

Research: Pay special attention to any statistical evidence you find in your sources.

4-22  **Deductive Methods:**
**Game Theory / Experiments and Simulations / Formal Modeling**

Read:
Johnson pages 166-175

Research: Continue working on your paper

4-24  **Writing Up Your Research and Presenting It**

Read: Baglione Chapters 5, 8, 9

Research: Apply Baglione’s ideas to your paper!

5-7  **Final Exam at 8 AM**
Final Papers due at start of exam period

5-14  **Final Grades Available** to Students in MyUM