

**San Jose State University  
Fall 2011**

**Political Science 190--Senior Seminar**

**DMH 149A, TTh 3:00-4:15**

**Prof. Danopoulos**

**Clark Hall 449, Office Hours: TTh 8:00-10:20, and by appointment**

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### **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.)

### **Reading Material**

1. **Larry Diamond and Leonardo Morlino**, eds, *Assessing the Quality of Democracy*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005, ISBN: 0-8018-8287-7. This book must be purchased by every seminar participant as it will provide much of the theoretical basis for the seminar thesis/paper assignment. It also contains a number of case studies that be helpful to your own research/thesis project.
2. **Daniel H. Levine and Jose E. Molina**, eds, *The Quality of Democracy in Latin America*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2011, ISBN: 978-1-58826-786-3. This is recommended but not required book. However, it will help those of you selecting to write your thesis/paper on a Latin America country, and it

also a good example how to structure papers assessing the quality of democracy. Moreover, the introductory chapter is an excellent source for theoretical material.

3. There will be **additional reading assignments**. The course outline provides details (see below).

### **Grading and Graded Assignments**

Course grade will be determined as follows:

Oral presentations	30%
Midterm	30%
Paper	40%

#### **Presentations:**

Students will make TWO presentations. The first of the presentations will be on one of the assignments from the list of readings. 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 students research/thesis assignment. Paper presentations will come toward the end of the semester and will include a 10-15 minute summary of the findings.

#### **Thesis/Paper:**

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 4th week of class ( September 22). 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 **December 1**. The final version is due on **December 16**. **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*

*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.

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	A bibliography (works cited) is usually not provided, although names of reports or references

thoroughly

may be mentioned in the text

**University Policy Regarding Academic Honesty :**

The University desires is known that Academic Honesty 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/downlad/judicial\\_affairs/Academic\\_Integrity\\_Policy\\_F06\\_1.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/downlad/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 of the essay type. Students will be tested on the theoretical material. This will include various assigned readings and the first portion (pp. 1-81) of the Diamond and Morlino book. Study questions will be provided a week or in advance. Bring large-size bluebook.

**Class Schedule and Reading Assignments:**

**August 25, Course Introduction**

Read: no reading assignment

**August 30, Lecture on topic selection, paper structure, documentation and attribution**

Read: no reading assignment

**September 1, A brief history of democracy**

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

Presenter (full name and email):-----

**September 6, Defining Democracy**

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

Presenter (full name and email)-----

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

Presenter (full name and email):-----

**September 8, Defining Democracy--continued**

Read: Giovanni Sartori, "How Far Can Free Government Travel?," *Journal of Democracy*, July 1995

Presenter (full name and email):-----

Read: Marc F. Plattner, "From Liberalism ton Liberal Democracy," *Journal of Democracy*, July 1999

Presenter (full and email):-----

**September 13, Transition to Democracy and Consolidation**

Read: Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, Democracy and Its Arenas, pp. 3-15 in their book, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation\**

Presenter (full name and email):-----

Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, Stateness, Nationalism and Democratization, pp. 16-37 in their book, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation\**

Presenter (full name and email):-----

**September 15, Transition and Consolidation--continued**

Read: Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, The Implications of Prior Regime Types for Transition Paths and Consolidation Tasks, pp. 55-65 in their book, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation\**

Presenter (full name and email):-----

Read: Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, Actors and Contexts, pp. 66-74 in their book , *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation\**

Presenter (full name and email):-----

**September 20, Sustaining Democracy**

Read: Larry Diamond, "Rethinking Civil Society", *Journal of Democracy* Vol 5 No 3

Presenter (full name and email):-----

Read: Arend Lijphart, "Constitutional Design for Divided Societies" *Journal of Democracy* April 2004

Presenter (full name and email):-----

**September 22, Sustaining Democracy--continued**

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

Presenter (full name and email):-----

Read: M. Steven Fish, "Stronger Legislatures, Stronger Democracies," *Journal of Democracy*, January 2006

Presenter (full name and email):-----

**September 29, Democracy Without Liberty**

Read: Larry Diamond, "Thinking About Hybrid Regimes," *Journal of Democracy*, April 2002

Presenter (full name and email):-----

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

Presenter (full name and email):-----

**September 29, Library Assignment**

Read: no reading

**October 4, Midterm Examination--bring large-size bluebook**

**October 6, Library Assignment**

Read: no reading

**October 11, Quality of Democracy: The Procedural Dimension**

Read: Guillermo O'Donnell, Why the Rule of Law Matters, pp. 3-17 in Diamond and Morlino, *Assessing the Quality of Democracy*

Presenter (full name and email):-----

Read: Philippe C. Schmitter, The Ambiguous Virtues of Accountability, pp 18-31 in Diamond and Morlino

Presenter (full name and email):-----

**October 13, Assessing the Quality of Democracy: The Substantive Dimension**

Read: David Beetham, Freedom as the Foundation, pp. 32-46 in Diamond and Morlino

Presenter (full name and email):-----

Read: Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Addressing Inequality, pp. 47-61 in Diamond and Morlino

Presenter (full name and email):-----

**October 18, Assessing the Quality of Democracy: The Responsiveness Dimension**

Read: G. Bingham Powell, The Chain of Responsiveness, pp. 62-76 in Diamond and Morlino

Presenter (full name and email):-----

**October 20, Assessing the Quality of Democracy: The System of Democratic Qualities**

Read: Diamond and Morlino, Introduction, pp. ix-xxxiv in Diamond and Morlino

Presenter (full name and email):-----

Read: Levine and Molina, Measuring the Quality of Democracy, pp21-38 in *The Quality of Democracy in Latin America*

Presenter (full name and email):-----

**October 25 and 27, Consultation with instructor regarding project**

**November 1-end of semester: paper presentations--schedule to be provided later**

**Final Paper due on December 16. Hard and electronic submissions**