• **Course Description:** Can the West promote democracy? Scholars disagree. Some deem “democracy promotion” an oxymoron: democracy is a home-grown, domestic institution, from which outsiders are best kept out. Others are not so sure, arguing that at critical junctures outside help can tip the domestic balance of power in a democratic direction.

The spread of democracies around the world, and the effort spent by Western states on furthering representative institutions among the new members of the democratic club, makes this a rich and promising topic.

Analyzing the international aspects of democratization involves understanding at least the following: (1) what is democracy (2) what domestic-level processes increase or decrease the level of democracy (3) what kind of influences from the outside world work, and do not work, in furthering democracy, and in what ways.

This course spans all subfields of political science, and spills over into law, economics, and sociology. A complicating factor is the geographical expanse of democratic institutions and efforts to promote them. Eastern Europe, Russia, the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, post-civil war El Salvador and Cambodia, are only some of the regions and countries that have been impacted. Their vastly different backgrounds challenge anyone attempting the puzzle. A further complication is the variety of ways in which the outside world may affect the scope and quality of democracy. These ways include but are not limited to: pressures exercised by regional economic institutions and alliances, the power of ideas and socialization, transfers of wealth, demands for
trade liberalization, the training of civic activists, reports issued by foreign election observers.

The objective of our course will be to discuss, in a series of meetings, a list of key readings on the topic of democracy promotion. Our goal will be to settle some questions of interest. A much more likely outcome is that you will finish the course with more questions that you started. That may be even better, goading you to take on some of these puzzles beyond the comfortable confines of academia.

Many readings will be available online.

- **Requirements and Grading:** Grades for the course will be based on participation (25%), a midterm (25%), completion of the occasional assignments (10%) and a final exam (40%). Participation consists of class attendance and taking part in discussion. The brief occasional assignments for students will involve commenting on weekly events in the media concerning developments relevant for the course, plus a couple of 2-page assignments on rankings of democracy and electoral revolutions. The occasional assignments need to be posted on the classesv2 server - no direct email to instructor please. More details on these will be given during the course.

**Course Readings and Topics:**

January 11

**Introduction: The Third Wave of Democracy - Hunting for Causes**


January 13

**Definitions First: What is Democracy?**


January 15

**Tracking the Third Wave: Measures of Democracy**

Check Polity IV, Freedom House online ratings and related information such as codebooks, Cheibub et al’s procedural definition from book.

*First Occasional Assignment: Compare Democracy Measures - due next meeting.*

Based on month born focus on 2 regions (Jan-April on LAm ME May-August on NorthAfr Asia and Sept-December on EEuropeRussia SSAfr). Find one case in each region for which ACLP disagrees with either FH/Polity and do some background research to explain why per the rules of the two datasets we see this. 2 page limit.

January 20

**What is Democracy Good for Anyway?**


January 25

**Fundamentals: Income**

January 27

**Fundamentals of Democracy: Income II**


February 1

**Fundamentals: Elites and Agents**

PBS documentary *Fall of a Dictator* about Milošević as an illustration

February 3

**Fundamentals: Elites and Agents**


February 8

**Fundamentals: Institutions, Culture, Civil Society**


February 10

**Fundamentals: Institutions, Culture, Civil Society II**


February 15

**MIDTERM EXAM (in class)**

February 17

**Using the Spatial Diffusion of Democracy to Learn Something About Its Roots**


February 22

**The European Union as a Promoter of Democracy**


February 24

**The European Union as a Promoter of Democracy II**


March 1

**Beyond Europe: Latin America, what happens when the opposition is exiled?**

March 3

**Emergence of Electoral Autocracy**


Hyde and Marinov, Mimeo

March 22

**Guaranteeing the Integrity of Elections: Observers and Election-Day Fraud**

Susan Hyde. Can international election observers deter election day fraud? evidence from a natural experiment in amenia. Manuscript, University of California, San Diego, September 2005

March 24

**Guaranteeing the Integrity of Elections: Observers and Voter-Registration Fraud**


March 29

**Electoral Revolutions: Validation of Actor-Based Approaches to Democratization?**
Movie Showing, *Ukraïna: Proryv do Demokratii* (Film Studio Dovjenko, Kïïv), documentary on the Orange Revolution.


March 31

*Second Occasional Assignment Due: Compare Electoral Revolutions*


Recommended:


April 5

**Why Did Some Electoral Autocracies Democratize While Others Did Not? The International Factor**


April 7

**International Reactions to the coup d’etat: Saving Democracies**

Goemans and Marinov, Mimeo.

April 12

**Taking Stock of the Democracy Promoters’ Toolbox**

The Economist, “Emerging Journalism”, September 13, 2007


April 14

**Can the US Promote Democracy? The Clash of Normative Objectives and Geopolitics**


April 19

**Meddling in Other Countries’ Elections: What Did the Voters Think, Lebanon 2010**

Corstange and Marinov Mimeo.

April 21

**Conclusions: Will More Countries Become More Democratic?**

FINAL EXAM

take-home essay