

PSC 4190 - Democracy and Democratization

Introduction

Democracy is many things at the same time – an ideology, a political theory, a political vision, framework of governance, a form of the state and even a way of life. This course is designed to introduce students to some of the contemporary developments in the idea of democracy, recent trends in democratization and challenges embedded in the democratic processes in the contemporary world.

Objectives

This course seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- i. To enable students to familiarize themselves with some recent trends in the idea of democracy, with a focus on attempts at re-working its political and conceptual underpinnings, and
- ii. To encourage students to look at critically the experience of democracy and democratization in different social, political, ideological and global contexts.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- i. Appreciate the value of theoretically informed understanding of democracy in engaging with the idea as well as social experiences of democracy, and
- ii. Recognize that democratization is a continuing process that is dependent on historical conditions of social and political change.

Course Outline

1. Democracy and its promise South Asia: Has democracy facilitated social and political change in the post-colonial transition?
2. Majoritarian vs. pluralist democracy. Comparative experience of democracy and the question of majoritarian democracy.
3. The ‘third wave’ of democracy and the end of history thesis. Has the ‘third wave’ really led to democratization?
4. Issues in the transition to democracy in post-authoritarian societies. The challenge of democratic institutionalization and stabilization.
5. Democracy and ethnic politics. State building, nation-building, democracy and political change in multi-ethnic societies. Does ethnicity matter in democratic politics?

6. Re-inventing democracy? Radical democracy, cosmopolitan democracy, consociational democracy, agonistic democracy.

Assessment

Classroom Test	15%
Take -home Assignment	15%
Attendance and Class Participation	10%
End of Semester Examination	60%

Recommended Reading

Bastian, Sunil and Robin Lukham, 2003, *Can Democracy be Designed? The Politics of Institutional Choice in Conflict-torn Societies*, London: Zed Press.

Beetham, David, 1994, (ed.), *Defining and Meaning of Democracy*, London: SAGE.

Elliot, Carolyn M, (ed.), 2003, *Civil Society and Democracy: A Reader*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Hansen, T. B, 1999, *The Saffron Wave: Democracy and Hindu Nationalism in Modern India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Held, David, 1995, *Democracy and the Global Order: From the Modern State to Cosmopolitan Governance*, London: Polity Press.

Huntington, Samuel, 1991, *The Third Wave: Democratization in the late Twentieth Century*, London: University of Oklahoma Press.

Kohli, Atul, (ed.). 2001, *The Success of India's Democracy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University press.

Lijphart, Arendt, 1977, *Democracy in Plural Societies: A Comparative Exploration*, New Haven: Yale University Press.

Mouffe, Chantal, 2000, *The Democratic Paradox*, London: Verso Press.