In this seminar we will analyze some of the more important theoretical debates about democracy and political development. We will examine interrelationships between democracy and economic development, the tensions between political order and democracy, and debates about the relative importance of political leadership, social structures, and political institutions.

This course is intended to make you grapple with, critique, and expand upon the readings and issues that are assigned. It will be a stab at what you will be doing the rest of your careers as scholars. This is done best as collective effort. Thus, class discussion (and preparation for class discussion) will be a central aspect of the course.

Weekly requirements: Timely reading of weekly assignments and active participation in seminar discussion. Students will also turn in a commentary on the weekly readings to be submitted at the beginning of each class. The commentaries are intended to help you unify the readings and raise questions for class discussion. They can consist of 2 or more questions on the readings, or a more general set of comments. The commentaries should reflect a critical analysis of the readings. As the semester progresses, they should reflect an 'accumulated wisdom,' that is, issues raised in earlier weeks should be brought in to challenge or analyze the current week's readings. Each student will turn in 5 commentaries in the quarter (including the week(s) for which oral presentations are made). They should be no more than one and a half to two pages double-spaced. The instructor will evaluate these on a scale of "excellent, good, fair, poor."

Student presentations: Five-minute oral presentations on selected readings to initiate class discussion (the number of presentations for each student will depend on class size). Note: the presentations are not to be a summary of the readings (everyone will have read the assigned pieces), but a set of comments or questions to get discussion rolling. This norm will be enforced ruthlessly by the instructor.

Final Assignment: You can choose between two options. A final take home exam where you will write two 5-6 page answers to questions provided by the instructor on the final day of class, or a paper (of 15-20 pages) relevant to the issues covered in the course. The paper can be an
analytical paper based on the readings or topics addressed in the course (which would give you the opportunity to develop ideas that came up in your short papers or class discussion), or a research paper dealing with these issues but applying them to a particular context. Either assignment would be due on **Monday, June 4.**

**Approximate grade distribution:** class participation, weekly questions, and oral presentations: 50 percent. Final assignment: 50 percent.

**Books ordered for purchase:**


In addition, some of the other assigned readings will posted on a “Blackboard Courseinfo” website designed for this class (and accessible only to students registered for the course). These readings will be available as downloadable documents. You can browse to the website via the main courseinfo site, [http://courses.northwestern.edu/](http://courses.northwestern.edu/)

The website will contain scanned works not available through NU electronic sites. Almost all journal articles assigned in this course are available for downloading through the electronic journal sites available via the NU electronic libraries (go to “Electronic Resources” on the library website and put in the name of the journal). If you do not see the reading posted in blackboard, go to the NU library website.

**Schedule of Class Topics and Readings**

**Week 1, March 26: Introduction to the Course**

**Week 2, April 2: Dahl and Schumpeter: Two Dominant Conceptions of Democracy in Comparative Politics**

Required readings:

**Week 3, April 9: “Transitions to Democracy”: Processes and Actors**

Dankwart Rustow, "Transitions to Democracy:" *Comparative Politics* 2 (April 1970).
Nancy Bermeo, “Myths of Moderation: Confrontation and Conflict during Democratic Transitions,” *Comparative Politics* April 1997
Teri L. Caraway, “Inclusion and Democratization: Class, Gender, Race, and the Extension of Suffrage,” forthcoming *Comparative Politics.*

**Week 4, April 16: Legacies of Authoritarianism in Democratic Consolidations in Eastern Europe and Latin America**

Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*: Part I, Chapter 6, Chapter 9, Chapter 12, Chapter 14, Chapter 15, Chapter 19, Chapter 21.

**Week 5, April 23: Structure, Modernization, and Democracy**


**Recommended:** Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. (If you have not read this before, I strongly suggest that you read it, especially Part III, and at an absolute minimum, Chapter 8, for this week's class).
Week 6, April 30: “Hybrid Regimes:” How Hybrid Are They?


Week 7, May 7: Subnational Authoritarianism and Democratization


Week 8, May 14: More on Democratization in Bad Places: Recent Perspectives


Week 9, May 21: Multinationalism and Problems of Democracy