AIMS OF THE COURSE

The course will acquaint the students with the history, aims and working methods of democracy promotion and would offer both theoretical and practical insights into its contested relevance to democratic development outside the transatlantic region. It will deal with the justification and areas of activity of major programs and agencies. The course will focus especially in civil society support and election observation activities, where the instructor has substantial practical experience. It will draw examples from the democracy promotion practices of the U.S., the European Union and the United Nations, including the substantive criticisms levelled against them in the scholarly literature. Students will derive practical knowledge in this policy field as regards program evaluation and the formulation of recommendations for policy development, as well as thinking critically about program aims and actual outcomes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Higher order thinking skills: see patterns, recognize hidden meanings, generalize from facts, ability to understand and contrast different theoretical approaches etc.

- Informed, reasoned judgment: make well-reasoned judgment, recognize subjectivity, etc.

- Ability to comprehend and critique advanced political science texts.

- Ability to evaluate policy related programs, outputs; make recommendations in the appropriate style;

- Analytical writing: ability to generate logical, plausible and persuasive arguments,
connect, compare and contrast; ability to identify logical relations and mistakes of argument, ability to make appropriate analytical distinctions etc.;

- Ability to analyze socio-political events in their broader institutional, political and social contexts and to draw policy-relevant conclusions

REQUIREMENTS:

Since the course consists of one lecture and one seminar on the same topic every week, it is essential that the participants read the compulsory literature as preparation for the seminars. To help this preparation students are required to submit at least one short question on (each of) the compulsory reading(s) on the day before the seminar. The question(s) should be uploaded to the e-learning site of the course 12 hours before the seminar the latest.

Each student is expected to write two take-home examination papers. Students can choose to submit a short research paper covering one of the topics raised in the course Going beyond the literature listed in the syllabus. The research paper would count as a substitute for one (and only one) of the take-home examination papers if and only if it is uploaded to the e-learning site of the course before the examination questions are made public on the site.

The instructor will take every effort to screen out cases of plagiarism. These will be dealt with according to university regulations. For definitions please consult the academic honesty section of the relevant university policies.

The final grade will be a composite of the following values:

Take-home examination papers - 70 % (35% each)

The research paper counts as equal to one of the in-class examinations (i.e. 35 %)

Questions and comments - 20 %

In-class activity - 10 %

Within the last component 5% is assigned automatically for regular presence and participation in discussions, the remaining 5% reflects the general quality of individual contributions.
1. The Basics: What is there to be promoted?
Is democracy promotion a meaningful policy across political cultures? Is there a universal core?

Compulsory readings

Recommended readings

2. How do countries democratize and unravel?
What are the internal sources of democratization and backsliding?

Compulsory readings


Recommended readings

3. So, who does democracy promotion and why?
The main actors of democracy promotion and the debates about its necessity

Compulsory Readings


Recommended readings
4. Autocratic pushback and what to do about it
The new trend of authoritarian pushback to external promotion and internal revitalization of democracy

Compulsory Readings


Recommended Readings

5. Technical Election assistance
Helping to find and implement a reliable institutional architecture and best practices. What monitors actually do?

Compulsory readings

Recommended readings

6. Election monitoring: what can go right and what can go wrong
How did election monitoring emerge, what it is good for, and how it can fail.

Compulsory Readings

**Recommended readings**

**7. Two African elections**
Comparing the 2012 and 2016 General Elections in Ghana from the monitors’ perspective

**Compulsory readings**
An African Election (documentary on the 2012 General Elections)

**Recommended readings**

**8. Funding civil society**
Why civil society programs can help in the process of democratization

**Compulsory readings**

**Recommended readings**

**9. The shrinking space of civil society engagement**
From external donors to foreign agents

**Compulsory readings**

**10. Going small scale**
11. Moderate Critique of Democracy Support

Why and how the original confrontational attitude of democracy assistance gave way to a more accommodating outlook?

Compulsory readings


Recommended readings


12. The radical critique

What if it is all rotten from the beginning? Democracy promotion helping authoritarian regimes and continuing traditional imperial support.

Compulsory Readings


Recommended Readings