DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE: THEORY AND PRACTICE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Democratic governance is the range of processes through which a society reaches consensus on and implements regulations, human rights, laws, policies and social structures – in pursuit of justice, welfare and environmental protection. Policies and laws are carried out by many institutions: the legislature, judiciary, executive branch, political parties, private sector and a variety of civil society. In this sense democratic governance brings to the fore the question of how a society organizes itself to ensure equality (of opportunity) and equity (social and economic justice) for all citizens.

This course examines institutions and processes of democratic governance in developing countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. It will focus on approaches and innovative solutions to promote and sustain democratic structures and processes for people-centered development. After a review of global trends and challenges to democratic transition and consolidation, we discuss key dimensions of democratic governance: electoral process and the role of electoral management bodies, access to justice and human rights norms and enforcement, decentralization and local governance capacity, transparency and anti-corruption strategies, legislative process and relations with the constituents, the role of civil society and media, and the impact of the global forces including the role of external partners. For each of these dimensions, we examine universally recognized values and standards, democratic governance practice in developing countries, and the contextual factors that determine and or influence the practice including ethnic diversity, inequalities in income and assets, media, culture and religion and educational level.

Each student will be expected to prepare a paper on one aspect of democratic governance and actively participate in class discussion. Readings marked * are required.

**Required Readings**


Schedler, Andreas, Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds. The Self-Restraining State – Power and Accountability in New States (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1999)

G. Shabbir Cheema, Building Democratic Institutions: Governance Reform in Developing Countries (Westport: Kumarian Press 2005)

“Democratic Governance” – A Package of Readings Available from the University Copy Center
1. (8 September) – Introduction to the course

2. (15 September) - Global Trends and Challenges

- evolution: the democratic century
- trends towards decentralization and urbanization
- rise of intra-state conflicts
- growing globalization and interdependence
- Concepts of democratic governance and human development
- Approaches to democratic governance
- Role of Internal and External Factors

Readings

* G. Shabbir Cheema, “Democracy, Governance and Development” chapter one in Cheema, Building Democratic Institutions : Governance Reform in Developing Countries (Westport: Kumarian Press 2005)


* United Nations Development Programme, Deepening Democracy in the Fragmented World (Oxford University Press 2002), Chapter one


Dahl, Robert A. On Democracy, (Yale University Press, 2000) part 1


Huntington, Samuel P. The Third Wave : Democratization in the Late The Twentieth Century, (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press 1991, Chapters 1-3

United Nations Development Programme, Governance for Sustainable Human Development (New York, 1997)

Dalpino, Catharina, Deferring Democracy: Promoting Openness in Authoritarian Regimes (Brookings Press, 2000), chapter 1


3. (22 September) – Electoral processes

- electoral process and political legitimacy
- electoral management bodies: structural patterns by regions
- control over party and campaign finance
- defining free and fair elections: registration and public awareness

Readings


* Przeworski, Adam et. al. chapters 1 on “Elections and Representation” *Democracy, Accountability and Representation* (Cambridge University Press 1999)


* Gyimah – Boadi, E. “Institutionalizing Credible Elections in Ghana” in Schedler et.al., eds

United Nations Development Programme, *Deepening Democracy in the Fragmented World* (Chapter Two).
Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), Code of Conduct: Ethical and Professional Administration of Elections (Stockholm, 1988)


Samuel Huntington, The Third Wave: Democratization in the Twentieth Century (University of Oklahoma, Press, 1991) chapter 4

Bratton, Michael and Nicolas van de Walle, Democratic Experiments in Africa, chapter 2

4. (29 September) Promotion of Civil and Political Rights

• concepts of human rights and human development
• human rights violation vs promotion approaches
• global framework for human rights: treaty bodies
• rights-based approach to development
• institutional capacities and constraints in human rights enforcement
• examples of successful cases

Readings


* G. Shabbir Cheema, “Promoting Human Rights Through Inclusive Democracy” chapter 5 in Cheema, Building Democratic Institutions : Governance Reform in Developing Countries (Westport: Kumarian 2005)

* Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom, Knopf, 1999, Chapter 10


United Nations Development Programme, Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World, (Chapter Two)

5. (6 October ) - Decentralization and Development

• Relationship between decentralization and democratic governance
• Political, economic and legal decentralization and their determinants
• Decentralization and service delivery and access
• Examples of successful cases

Readings

* G. Shabbir Cheema, “Democracy at the Grassroots Through Decentralization” chapter 6 in Cheema, Building Democratic Institutions: Governance Reform in Developing Countries (Westport: Kumarian 2005)


* John – Mary Kauzya “Strengthening Local Governance Capacity for Participation” in Rondinelli and Cheema eds.


Datta, A. “Facilitating Local Participation Through Rural Panchayats in India” (UNDP Series, 1999) www undp.org democratic governance

P. Tapales, “Expanding Basic Health Service Delivery Through Partnership with the People in the Philippines” UNDP series 1999 www undp.org democratic governance


6. (13 October) Integrity in Governance - Anti-corruption Strategies

- Relationship between corruption and democratic governance
- Measuring the magnitude
- Causes and consequences
- Exploring elements of reform
- Some successful examples

Readings

G. Shabbir Cheema, “Integrity in Governance: Combating Corruption” chapter 3 in Cheema, Building Democratic Institutions: Governance Reform in Developing Countries (Westport: Kumarian Press 2005)


* J. Quah “Combating Corruption in South Korea and Thailand” in The Self – Restraining State: Power and Accountability in New Democracies


7. (20 October) Institutional Capacity of the Judicial System: Access to Justice

- Elements of a successful legal and judicial system; planning for institutional development; mechanisms for holding governments accountable
- Legal aid systems and mechanisms
- Alternative dispute resolution
- Public awareness campaigns and the role of civil society
- Conditions for independent and yet accountable judiciary

Readings
8. (October 27) - Parliamentary Processes

- Relations with the Executive
- Constituent Parliamentarian relations
- Constraints on legislative effectiveness
- Building political culture of tolerance

Readings

* Baaklini, Abdo, G. Denoeux and R. Springborg, Legislative Politics in the Arab World – The Resurgence of Democratic Institutions, (Boulder: Lynne Rienner 1999)

M. Laver and K. Shepsle, “Government Accountability in Parliamentary Democracy” in Przeworski et. al. eds. Democracy, Accountability and Representation


USAID Center for Democracy and Governance, USAID Handbook on Legislative Strengthening (Technical Publication Series 2000)

H. Lippman and J. Emmert, Assisting Legislatures in Developing Countries: A Framework for Program Planning and Implementation” (Washington D.C. USAID Center for Information and Evaluation, 1997)


9 (3 November ) Contextual Factors in Democratic Governance

- Culture and values
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Social structures and inequalities
- Stagnant economies
- Civil-Military Relations
- Expanding roles of civil society at local, national and global levels; CSOs as agents of change

Readings
10. (10 November) - Democracy and Global Forces: Role of external partners

- democratization process and the market
- The evolution of external assistance in democratic governance
- Core elements of the U.S. strategy
- Multilateral assistance: the World Bank and UNDP
• Assessment of external assistance: lessons learned

Readings

* Inoguchi, T. and E. Newman and J. Keane, The Changing Nature of Democracy, Chapters 8-10 and 15


11. (17 November) – Democracy in Crisis Situations

• Peace and public security
• Building institutions in crisis and post crisis situations
• Peace and public accountability
• Democratic peace building in war torn societies
• The role of external partners in crisis and post crisis situations

Readings

* United Nations Development Programme, Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World, Chapter 4
* G. Shabbir Cheema, “Governance in Crisis Situations” chapter 9 in Cheema, Building Democratic Institutions: Governance Reform in Developing Countries (Westport: Kumarian Press 2005)

War- Torn Societies Project, Case Studies

* United Nations Development Programme, Governance in Crisis and Post Crisis Situations (New York, Management Development and Governance Division, 2000)

12. (1 December) – Presentation and discussion of student papers

13. (8 December) – Presentation and discussion of student papers; summing up