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 organizations 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 based on practical examples. 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, 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

Bratton, Michael and Nicolas van de Walle, Democratic Experiments in Africa (Cambridge University Press, 1997)
Przeworski, Adam, S. Stokes and B. Manin, Democracy, Accountability and Representation (Cambridge University Press 1999)
Schedler, Andreas, Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds. The Self-Restraining State – Power and Accountability in New States (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1999)

(Selected chapters from the above books and other articles and papers will be made available through the Office of the Department of Politics, NYU)

1. (4 September) – Introduction to the course

2. (11 September) – Global Trends and Challenges

   • evolution: the democratic century
   • key elements
   • rise of intra-state conflicts
   • growing globalization and interdependence
   • Concepts of democratic governance and human development
   • Approaches to democratic governance

Readings


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


Huntington, Samuel P. *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century*, (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press 1991, Chapters 1-2)

Additional Readings


3. (18 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: key issues
   - case studies of elections

Readings

G. Shabbir Cheema “Electoral Process and Democracy”

Przeworski, Adam et. al. Democracy, Accountability and Representation( Cambridge University Press 1999) chapters 1


Additional Readings


Eisenstadt, Todd, “Off the Streets and into the Courtroom: Resolving Post-Electoral Conflicts in Mexico”, in Schedler et.al., eds

Gyimah – Boadi, E. “Institutionalizing Credible Elections in Ghana” in Schedler et.al., eds
Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), *Code of Conduct: Ethical and Professional Administration of Elections* (Stockholm, 1988)


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

4. (25 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


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

5. (2 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
Cheema, G. Shabbir and Dennis Rondinelli, eds. Decentralization and Development: Policy Implementation in Developing Countries (Sage Publications, 1984), chapter one


Larry Diamond and Sveltana, “Size and Democracy - The Case for Decentralization” in Diamond, Developing Democracy: Towards Consolidation


Additional Readings


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


4. 6. (9 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


United Nations Development Programme and OECD Development Centre, Corruption and Integrity Improvement Initiatives in Developing Countries, (New York, 1998)


Additional Readings

D. Dunn, “Mixing Elected and Non-elected Officials in Democratic Policy Making : Fundamentals of Accountability and Responsibility, in Przeworski et. al. eds Democracy, Accountability and Representation


Rose-Ackerman, C. Corruption and Governance (New York, UNDP Discussion Paper 1996)

Centre for Institutional Reform and the Informal Sector, Governance and the Economy in Africa: Tools for Analysis and Reform of Corruption (Dakar: USAID, 1996)

Przeworski, Adam and Susan Stokes and Bernard Manin, Democracy, Accountability and Representation (Cambridge University Press, 1999)


- 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
- Case studies

Readings

McClymont, Mary and S. Golub, eds. Many Roads to Justice (New York, Ford Foundation, 2000)


Brown, Nathan “Judicial Review and the Arab World” in Journal of Democracy
8. 23 October - Parliamentary Processes

- Relations with the Executive
- Types of parliaments
- Constituent - Parliamentarian relations
- Constraints on legislative effectiveness
- Role of political parties
- 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


Additional Readings

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 and 10. (30 October and 6 November) Contextual Factors in Democratic Governance

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

Readings


Przeworski, Adam “Democracy and Economic Growth” unpublished, 2000


Linz, Juan and Alfred Stepan, Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press 1996)

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

Additional Readings


United Nations Development Programme, *Participatory Local Governance*, (New York: Local Initiative Facility for the Urban Environment, 1997) Case studies on the role of the civil society in Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania


11. 13 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: United Nations and the World Bank
- Assessment of external assistance: lessons learned

Readings


12. 20 November – Democracy in Crisis Situations
• Peace and public security
• Causes and consequences of conflict
• 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


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

13. 27 November – Presentation of student papers and discussion

13. 4 December - Presentation of student papers and discussion; and summing up