

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: Contemporary Challenges to Democracy

Course Number and Section

POLISCI

3397F - 550

Instructor Name(s): Zheger Hassan

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Antirequisite:

Political Science 2299F if taken in 2022-23

Course Description:

Following several waves of democratization, the world is experiencing a democratic rollback. Over the last two decades, countries have suffered erosion in their democratic institutions and practices – some democratic regimes have been stifled or even displaced by nondemocratic forms of governance. At the same time, fewer nondemocratic regimes are transitioning to democracy. This course will furnish students with the tools for understanding the contemporary assault on democracy and the apparent rise of authoritarianism. The course will explore the scope and causes of this democratic erosion by drawing on theoretical ideas, empirical evidence, and by adopting a comparative approach. To this end, we will be guided by key questions such as: What does democratic erosion look like? How do we know when democratic institutions are under attack? What are the main causes undermining democracy? Who are

Describe the main features of democracy and authoritarianism;

Critically evaluate the causes and factors contributing to the erosion of democracy;

Identify and explain the role of domestic and international actors in undermining democracy;

Identify and describe the contemporary challenges facing democracies;

Outline the factors that contribute to successful democratic consolidation;

Develop the ability to critically evaluate academic and non-academic sources related to democracy and democratic erosion; and

Develop the ability and skills to critically assess information and to clearly communicate your knowledge in written and oral form.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

The required readings (articles and book chapters) will be made available on the course website through OWL.

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %

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Attendance and Participation	Ongoing	30
Seminar Presentation	TBD	20
Research Paper 1	October 20, 2023	25
Research Paper 2	December 8, 2023	25

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.