

Course Name – Comparative Democratization

Course Code – N/A

Credits- 4

Faculty Name - Dr. Garima Sarkar

Faculty Biography (maximum three to four sentences) -

Dr. Garima Sarkar holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from McMaster University, Canada, where her research examined gender and politics, political recruitment, and the informal dynamics of candidate selection in South and Southeast Asia. Her dissertation, “Barriers to Women in Politics: Candidate Selection and Informal Party Politics in India,” offers new empirical insights into women’s political underrepresentation and party politics in India. She has served as a teaching and research fellow at McMaster University, contributing to major projects including the SSHRC-funded Ethnic Quota Project and studies on gender quotas in Asia. With over ten years of additional teaching and research experience in India, she brings strong comparative, mixed-methods, and regional expertise to the study of gender, party politics, representational politics, and global public policy.

Course Description-

The “third wave” of democratization has stalled in the recent years. The rise of illiberal populism and nostalgia for authoritarianism have sparked theoretical and empirical debates in the field of comparative and global politics. This course builds on comparative democratization literature to examine why and how democracies emerge, persist and breakdown. We begin by considering the theoretical debates in defining and measuring democracy before examining the challenges in the rise, survival and breakdown of democracies, especially in the Middle-East and Asia.

Prerequisites-

This is a reading and writing intensive course designed to equip senior undergraduate and masters students with a solid background in the study of democratization in the post-Cold War era. The aim is to familiarize students with the key concepts, theoretical debates and empirical cases in democratization studies. Students are encouraged to demonstrate their case knowledge of any country or region to class discussions and written assignments.

P.S. This course will be especially helpful for students interested in pursuing graduate studies in Comparative Politics.

Scheme of Evaluation and Grading –

Student Assessment Methods	Assessment Weights
Class Participation	10%
10 x Weekly Responses (2% each response)	20%
Short Opinion Paper	20%
Short Opinion Paper	20%
Presentation	
Final Exam	30%

Letter Grade	Percentage of Marks	Grade Points	
O	80 and above	8	Outstanding: Exceptional knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and extraordinary critical and analytical ability.
A+	75 - 79	7.5	Excellent: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and critical and analytical ability.
A	70 - 74	7	Very Good: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, excellent organizational capacity, ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles, critically analyze existing material and originality in thinking and presentation.
A-	65 -69	6	Good: Good understanding of the subject matter, ability to identify issues and provide balanced solutions to problems and good critical and analytical skills.

B+	60 - 64	5	Fair: Average understanding of the subject matter, limited ability to identify issues and provide solutions to problems and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B	55 - 59	4	Acceptable: Adequate knowledge of the subject matter to go to the next level of the study and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B-	50 - 54	3	Marginal: Limited knowledge of the subject matter and irrelevant use of materials, and poor critical and analytical skills.
P1	45 - 49	2	Pass 1: Pass with Basic understanding of the subject matter.
P2	40 - 44	1	Pass 2: Pass with Rudimentary understanding of the subject matter.
F	Below 40	0	Fail: Poor comprehension of the subject matter; poor critical and analytical skills and marginal use of the relevant materials. Will require repeating the course.