

University of Alabama

## PSC 330: Democratization

Fall 2021, TR 09:30-10:45

Room: 113 Ten Hoor Hall

Website: <https://ulearn.blackboard.com/>

Professor: Dr. Amanda B. Edgell  
(she/her/they/them)

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314 ten Hoor Hall

Office hours: Tu (11a-12p), Th (3-5p)

<https://calendly.com/abedgell/office-hours>

Where do democracies come from? Why do some democracies die? And what can we do to promote and protect democracy? This course explores how democracy went from a revolutionary idea to a global norm. For most of recorded history, human beings have lived under dictatorship. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, however, democracy swept the globe. While much progress has been made, most countries still fail to meet the minimal standards of democracy. Likewise, many democracies are currently under threat from illiberal and anti-pluralist forces. Throughout this semester, we will tackle questions about what constitutes democracy, what explains democratization, and how the U.S. promotes democracy around the world.

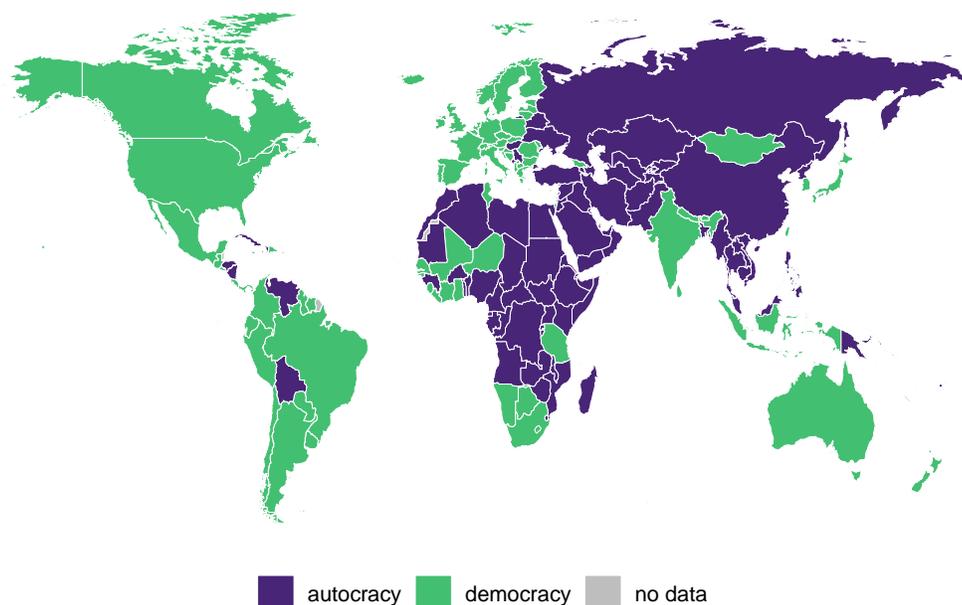
### Student learning outcomes:

1. Define core concepts concerning democracy and democratization.
2. Apply theories of democratization to real-world cases.
3. Evaluate strategies for democracy promotion.

**Pre-requisites:** Sophomore standing or permission from the instructor. PSC 203 (Comparative Politics) and PSC 202 (Political Science Methods) recommended.

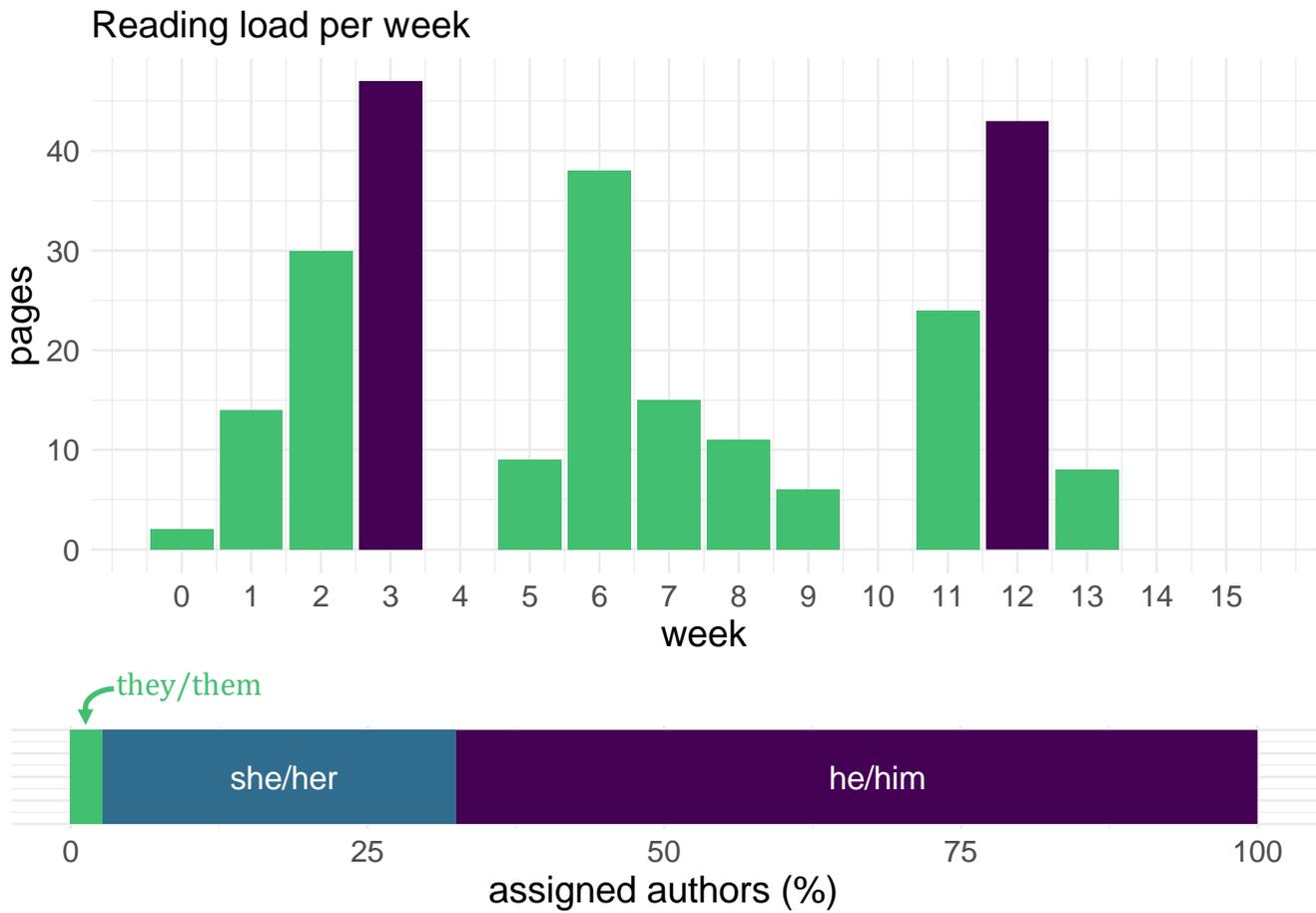
**Technology (BYOD):** To participate in class activities, you will need to bring a laptop computer or mobile device with word processing software (e.g., MS Word) and internet access to Blackboard and other websites.

**Required Texts:** None. All readings are available through the course website.



*Map of Political Regimes as of December 31, 2019. Data Source: ERT (v2.2).*

# What You Can Expect from this Course



**1**  
Exam  
...with re-takes

writing...  
~5  
...pages



Face-to-face  
instruction



International  
Studies

**You choose**

the format for your final project

*Self-*  
assessment

**ACTIVE**  
*learning*



Case Studies



Study Hall

## Assessment of Learning Outcomes

SLO	Assignment	Value	First Deadline	Final Deadline
1	Core Concepts Exam	30%	16 September 2021	02 December 2021
2	Data Portrait	50%	24 October 2021	21 November 2021
3	Final Project	20%	21 November 2021	09 December 2021

- Core Concepts Exam (30%):** You will complete a closed-book exam covering core concepts in class on 16 September. You can re-take this exam up to three times during designated study hall sessions to improve your score.
- Data Portrait (50%):** Throughout the semester, you will collect background information about an assigned case country and make assessments about its democratization prospects. We will complete this project in several phases, with in-class and at-home activities. A compilation of these activities will constitute your final data portrait.
- Final Project (20%):** You will create a blog, video, or podcast to express your view on the following topic: Should the United States continue to pursue democracy promotion as a foreign policy objective? By the **first deadline**, you should submit an outline of your project and the format.

**Attendance/Participation:** You should come to class prepared to engage with the assigned material. If you miss class, you can still participate by meeting with me during office hours and making up in-class activities at home.

**Deadlines:** You should aim to submit all assignments by the **first deadline** (see table above). You may submit revised versions of the assignment until the **final deadline**. Assignments uploaded to Blackboard should be received by 11:59pm on the deadline.

**Assessment, Not Grading:** My assessment of your work will focus on feedback that helps you achieve the learning objectives. In general, I will not provide a numeric grade on assignments, except for the Core Concepts Exam, which will be graded traditionally, but with multiple opportunities for you to re-take for a higher score.

**Self-assessment:** When you turn in the final version of the Data Portrait and Opinion Piece, you will be asked to provide a self-assessment of the grade you believe you deserve. At the midterm and final, you will also have the opportunity to provide feedback on the course and a self-assessment of your progress toward achieving the learning objectives. I reserve the right to overrule any grades I disagree with but will provide you with an explanation and time for rebuttal.

The following scale will be used to determine your midterm and final grade:

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
97–	93–	92–	87–	83–	80–	77–	73–	70–	67–	63–	60–	≤59%
100%	96%	90%	89%	86%	82%	79%	76%	72%	69%	66%	62%	
4.33	4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	0.67	0.00

Majors and minors in political science or international studies are required to carry at least a C letter grade in all political science coursework. Students receiving an “F” for the midterm and final grading periods will be reported as “stopped attending”, “never attended”, or “earned”, depending on the circumstances.

## Detailed Seminar Schedule

All assigned readings, podcasts, videos, should be completed prior to class on Tuesday, unless otherwise indicated. All content is available through the course Blackboard page under the corresponding week's content area.

<b>Week 0. Introduction</b>		
19 Aug.	V-Dem Institute. 2020. "The Business Case for Democracy: Democracies Deliver."	1
<b>Week 1. What is Democracy?</b>		
24-26 Aug.	Schmitter, Philippe C. & Terry Lynn Karl. 1991. "What democracy is...and is not." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , 2(3): 75-88.	1
<b>Week 2. Measuring Democracy</b>		
31 Aug. - 02 Sep.	Freedom House. 2021. "Methodology". Lindberg, Staffan I., Michael Coppedge, John Gerring, and Jan Teorell. 2014. "V-Dem: A New Way to Measure Democracy." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , 25(3): 159-169. Schedler, Andreas. 2002. "Elections without Democracy: The Menu of Manipulation" <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , 13(2):36-39.	1
<b>Week 3. Waves of Democratization</b>		
07-09 Sep.	Huntington, Samuel P. 1993. <i>The Third Wave: Democratization in the late Twentieth Century</i> . University of Oklahoma Press, pp. 3-30. Lührmann, Anna and Staffan I. Lindberg. 2019. "A Third Wave of Autocratization is Here: What is New About It?" <i>Democratization</i> , 26(7): 1096-1113.	1
<b>Week 4. Defining Core Concepts</b>		
14-16 Sep.	Study Hall (Tuesday) <b>*Core Concepts Exam (Thursday)</b>	1
<b>Week 5. Does Development Cause Democracy?</b>		
21-23 Sep.	Wucherpfennig, Julian and Franziska Deutsch. 2009. "Modernization and Democracy: Theories and Evidence Revisited." <i>Living Reviews in Democracy</i> . ETH Zurich and University of Zurich.	2
<b>Week 6. Is There a Natural Resource Curse?</b>		
28-30 Sep.	Ross, Michael. 2015. "What Have We Learned About the Resource Curse?" <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> , 18: 239-259. Niarchos, Nicolas. 2021. "The Dark Side of Congo's Cobalt Rush." <i>The New Yorker</i> .	2

<b>Week 7. (When and Why) Does Civil Resistance Work?</b>		
05-07 Oct.	Chenowith, Erica and Maria J. Stephan. 2014. "Drop Your Weapons: When and Why Civil Resistance Works." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , 93(4): 94-106. Sharp, Gene. 1973. "198 Methods of Nonviolent Action." Re-printed by the Albert Einstein Institution.	2
<b>Week 8. The Democratic Coup?</b>		
12-14 Oct.	Varol, Ozan. 2019. "Love Ballads, Carnations, and Coups." <i>The Military Review</i> , pp. 19-27. Reprinted from <i>The Democratic Coup</i> , Oxford: Oxford University Press. Wright, Joseph, Barbara Geddes, Erica Frantz, and George Derpanopoulos. 2016. "Are Coups Good for Democracy?" <i>Washington Post / Monkey Cage</i> .	2
<b>Week 9. Can Elections Cause Democratization?</b>		
19-21 Oct.	Kräuchi, Thomas and Anna Lührmann. 2017. "Elections and Democratization." V-Dem Policy Brief no.15. Knutsen, Carl Henrik, Håvard Mokleiv Nygård, and Tore Wig. 2017. "You'd Think Dictators Would Avoid Elections. Here's Why They Don't." <i>Washington Post/Monkey Cage</i> . <b>*First deadline for Data Portrait (11:59pm on 24 Oct.)</b>	2
<b>Week 10. Wellness Week</b>		
26-28 Oct.	Study Hall (Tuesday) Midterm Study Break (Thursday)	2
<b>Week 11. What is Democracy Promotion?</b>		
02-04 Nov.	Lawson, Marian L. and Susan B. Epstein. 2019. <i>Democracy Promotion: An Objective of U.S. Foreign Assistance</i> . Congressional Research Service.	3
<b>Week 12. (How) Does Democracy Promotion Work?</b>		
09-11 Nov.	Finkel, Steven E., Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, Michael Neureiter, and Chris A. Belasco. 2020. "Effects of U.S. Foreign Assistance on Democracy Building, 1990-2014: An Update." Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Working Paper no. 436. Gisselquist, Rachel M. and Miguel Niño-Zarazúa. 2021. "Foreign Aid Can Help Stem the Decline of Democracy, If Used in the Right Way." <i>The Conversation</i> . Podcast: The Taming of Democracy Assistance by Sarah Sunn Bush, <i>New Books in Political Science</i> .	3

<b>Week 13. (How) Should Donors Engage in Democracy Promotion?</b>		
16-18 Nov.	<p>Galston, William A. 2021. "Democracy Promotion in a World Growing More Dangerous." <i>Wall Street Journal</i>.</p> <p>Krasner, Stephen D. 2020. "Learning to Live with Despots: The Limits of Democracy Promotion." <i>Foreign Affairs</i>.</p> <p>Drake, Bruce. 2021. "Americans Put Low Priority on Promoting Democracy Abroad." Pew Research Center.</p> <p><b>*Final deadline for revised Data Portrait (11:59pm on 21 Nov.)</b></p> <p><b>*First deadline for Final Projects (at least an outline, 11:59pm on 21 Nov.)</b></p>	3
<b>Week 14. Give Thanks</b>		
23-25 Nov.	<p>Study Hall (Tuesday)</p> <p>Thanksgiving Holiday (Thursday)</p>	3
<b>Week 15. Wrapping Up</b>		
30 Nov.	Study Hall (Tuesday), <b>*Final chance to re-take Core Concepts Exam</b>	3

**Final Projects Due  
11:59pm, 09 Dec. 2021**

## COVID-19 Policies

All University faculty, staff, and students are expected to maintain a commitment to the health and safety of our campus community. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, specific health and safety standards are in place to minimize exposure and community spread on campus.

In the interest of your health and safety and that of all UA students, faculty, and staff, the University reserves the right to change the mode of instruction or schedule of instruction at any time, based upon prevailing public health and other guidance. While the method of delivery may change, educational instruction and opportunities will continue. As such, the University will not provide a refund of tuition, in whole or in-part, based on any such changes. Detailed information on changes in format or schedule can be found at [studentaccounts.ua.edu](https://studentaccounts.ua.edu) and [financialaid.ua.edu](https://financialaid.ua.edu).

UA students, faculty, and staff are required to comply with [UA System Comprehensive Health and Safety Task Force](#) and [UA Return Plan](#) guidance regarding social distancing, face coverings and other measures.

Getting vaccinated is the best way to [Protect Our Herd](#). COVID-19 vaccines are being administered by the [University Medical Center](#), the [Student Health Center](#) and various businesses and healthcare providers. Students who [report proof of their vaccination status](#) will receive Bama Cash as a thank you gift for doing their part.

For reliable information on COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines:

- University of Alabama vaccinations: <https://healthinfo.ua.edu/vaccine/>
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- World Health Organization guidance: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

**KNOW  
BEFORE YOU GO:**

Stay home if you experience any symptoms  
or have been exposed to COVID-19.



**#TIDETOGETHER**  
FOR MORE INFO: [HEALTHINFO.UA.EDU](https://healthinfo.ua.edu)



## Student Rights and Responsibilities

**Respectful dialogue:** The classroom should be a welcoming and safe environment for everyone to learn from our diverse views and experiences. You are expected to respect others' opinions, to refrain from personal attacks or demeaning comments, and to keep confidential all issues of a personal or professional nature that are discussed in class.

**Names and pronouns:** The University of Alabama provides instructors with a roster listing each student's legal name. However, I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me accordingly early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. You can also designate your pronouns in Banner.

**Students with disabilities:** If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and need reasonable accommodation(s) to participate in this class, please contact ODS and schedule an appointment with me during office hours. For more information, visit: [www.catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/disability-services/](http://www.catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/disability-services/)

**Parents and caregivers:** If you have caregiver duties (such as for a child, an older relative, or family member with disabilities) that limit your ability to pursue your education at UA in the same capacity as your peers, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can make reasonable accommodations. Children are always welcome in the classroom; however, I ask that you sit near the door so that you can step out without disturbing others should that be necessary.

**Pregnancy accommodations:** If you are pregnant, have recently given birth, or experience a false pregnancy, termination, or miscarriage, please reach out to me so that we can make accommodations. Your other instructors must do the same. It's the law! See Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. Additional resources can be found at: [www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/information/pregnancy](http://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/information/pregnancy)

**Religious observances:** Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, you should notify me in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester if you require accommodation for religious observances. For more information on your rights, visit: [www.provost.ua.edu/oa-guidelines-for-religious-holidays-observance/](http://www.provost.ua.edu/oa-guidelines-for-religious-holidays-observance/)

**UAct: Ethical community:** The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (<http://www.ua.edu/uact>) provides extensive information on how to report or obtain assistance with a variety of issues, including issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual violence or other Title IX violations, illegal discrimination, harassment, child abuse or neglect, hazing, threat assessment, retaliation, and ethical violations or fraud.

**Mandatory Reporting:** As a faculty member at the University of Alabama, I am a mandatory reporter for known or suspected child abuse or neglect. This means that if I become aware of harm or threatened harm, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or negligent treatment of any person under the age of 18 or under the age of 19 In need of protective services, I must immediately report the suspected abuse to the University of Alabama Police Department. For more information: <https://uact.ua.edu/information/child-protection>

**Responsible Reporting:** As a faculty member at the University of Alabama, I am considered a responsible reporting individual for sexual misconduct under Title IX regulations. This means that

I am required to immediately report known incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking to the Title IX Coordinator and the Designated Harassment Resource Person under the UAct program. For more information: <https://uact.ua.edu/information/titleix>

**Academic misconduct** Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official Academic Misconduct Policy provided in the Online Catalog. Any suspected academic misconduct, including plagiarism, will be referred to the College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Office. For more information: <https://provost.ua.edu/academic-misconduct/>

**Turnitin® policy:** Students agree that their enrollment in this course allows the instructor the right to use electronic devices to help prevent plagiarism. All course materials are subject to submission to Turnitin.com for the purpose of detecting textual similarities. Assignments submitted to Turnitin.com will be included as source documents in Turnitin.com's restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. Turnitin.com will be used as a source document to help students avoid plagiarism in written documents.

**Grading disputes:** Mistakes happen. If you think I have made an error, contact me during office hours or schedule an appointment within one week of receiving the grade. Out of respect for your right to privacy under the University's Confidentiality of Student Records policy and the Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, I will not discuss grades via email.

**Audio-video recordings:** Students will be notified if the instructor decides to record class sessions. If students do not want their likeness included in the recorded class session, they may elect to not participate in the video recordings. Recordings are subject to the following regulations under FERPA: (1) Only students enrolled in the class section may view the recording; (2) Students may not post or use the recordings in any other setting (e.g., social media) for any purpose. Students who violate these rules will be subject to student discipline, up to and including expulsion.

**Sharing course materials:** All lectures, presentations, and class discussions are for viewing by members of this class section only and may not be posted in any public forum or shared with anyone not enrolled in this class. Any student violating these rules may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action.

**Severe weather protocol:** The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. Please see the latest severe weather guidelines in the Online Catalog: [www.ready.ua.edu/severe-weather-guidelines/](http://www.ready.ua.edu/severe-weather-guidelines/). In particular, I recommend that you download the ABC-3340 weather app, follow James Spann on social media, and activate emergency alerts on your mobile devices.

**Notification of changes:** The instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, students will receive notification in class and/or via email with reasonable time to adjust to any changes.