THIS RESEARCH SEMINAR HAS TWO OBJECTIVES. FIRST, IT IS TO SURVEY SOME OF THE VAST LITERATURE ON DEMOCRATIZATION AND DEMOCRATIC REGIMES -- WITH THE GOAL OF OBTAINING A GOOD GRASP OF THE THEORETICAL, CONCEPTUAL AND EMPIRICAL DIMENSIONS OF THE LITERATURE. SECOND, IT IS TO PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR THOSE IN THE SEMINAR TO UNDERTAKE A SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH PROJECT. THIS IS A RESEARCH SEMINAR. THUS, STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO EMBARK ON A RESEARCH PROJECT. EACH STUDENT IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE BY THE END OF THE SEMESTER A POTENTIALLY “PUBLISHABLE” PAPER. YOUR PAPER SHOULD BE WRITTEN ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL **DEMOCRATIZATION**. THEREFORE, YOU NEED TO FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THAT JOURNAL AND ADOPT ITS STYLE IN YOUR FINAL PAPER.

THE SEMINAR IS ORGANIZED INTO THREE SECTIONS.

IN THE FIRST SECTION, WE WILL SURVEY THE LITERATURE. SINCE THE LITERATURE IS VOLUMINOUS WE WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO READ EVERYTHING BUT FOCUS ON SOME KEY “THEMATICS” AND SEMINAL WORKS.

ASSESSMENT BASIS OF SECTION 1.

THERE WILL BE A TAKE HOME EXAM. IT WILL BE A MID-TERM EXAM THAT COVERS THE LITERATURE WE HAVE EXPLORED IN THE FIRST SECTION.

IN THE SECOND SECTION, WE WILL REVIEW THE LITERATURE IN THE CONTEXT OF YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT. THIS SECTION IS MEANT AS A KIND OF “LESSONS LEARNED AND WHAT I’M I CONTRIBUTING TO THE LITERATURE” TYPE OF REFLECTION.

ASSESSMENT BASIS OF SECTION 2.

EVALUATION OF RESEARCH DESIGN AND PRESENTATION OF HOW THE YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT FITS INTO THE DEMOCRATIZATION LITERATURE.

IN THE FINAL SECTION, STUDENTS WILL WORK ON THE DRAFTING OF
THEIR RESEARCH PAPER. A RESEARCH DESIGN DRAFT OF THE PAPER WILL BE EXPECTED TOWARDS THE END OF THIS SECTION.

ASSESSMENT BASIS OF SECTION 3.

STUDENTS WILL GIVE ME A DRAFT OF THEIR PAPER. I WILL PROVIDE QUICK FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE DRAFT, WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT MY COMMENTS WILL HELP STUDENTS IMPROVE THE DRAFT AS THEY MOVE TOWARDS ITS FINAL VERSION.

AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER, A FINAL RESEARCH PAPER MUST BE SUBMITTED.

GRADING: 20 PERCENT PARTICIPATION/PRESENTATION. 25 PERCENT MID-TERM EXAM. 10 PERCENT RESEARCH DRAFT PROPOSAL AND 45 PERCENT FINAL RESEARCH PAPER.

There are no required books for this course but I recommend the following three:


August 22nd - Modernization


August 29th – Modernization Revisited


**September 5th - Models of Democratic Transitions**


**September 12th - Variations**

Bunce, Valerie (2000) Comparative Democratization Big and Bounded Generalizations, *Comparative Political Studies* 33/6-7, 703-34.


September 19th - External Dynamics


September 26th - Measurement Issues I


Matthijs Bogaards (2012). Where to draw the line? From degree to dichotomy in measures of democracy, Democratization, 19(4), 690-712.

October 3rd - Measurement Issues II.


October 10TH - Democratic Regime Effects I.


**October 17th - Democratic Regime Effects II.**


**October 24th Democratization: Case Studies**


**Mid-Term Exam will be posted on October 25th and will be due on October 28th at 1:00 P.M.**

**October 31 and November 7th – No class**

**November 14th - Lessons Learned in the Context of Research Paper.** Each Student is expected to give 15 minute presentation on his/her research paper. At this stage, the assumption is that a working draft of the paper has been completed. Therefore, this is not meant as a presentation of preliminary research idea to be fleshed out later. You are expected to present the paper’s core “thesis” (or hypotheses), the empirics and a strong indication of how it fits into a specific body of literature on democratization and what’s your contribution to it!

**November 21st -** a draft of the research has to be submitted to me online. It will be returned by November 22nd with comments. The final paper will be due on December 6 (NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!)