Nebraska Wesleyan University

POLSC 3150 Democratization

Catalog

2016-2017

Course Description

The Arab Spring and the problematic transitions to democracy throughout North Africa and the Middle East have presented renewed questions about what a democracy is. This topic is unique in political science because there are more questions than answers: experts aren't sure what facilitates democratic transitions, how transitions are completed and sustained, and what makes a country most likely to consolidate their democracy. Thus, this is an exciting and important area to study. In this course, we will explore each of these debates, tracing the lifespans of democracies and attempting to understand the political, cultural, and economic factors that make them most likely to survive and thrive. We will contrast these with unsuccessful transitions to democracy and analyze the conditions under which countries backslide or become undemocratic.

Course Hours

4 hours

Departments

1. Political Science