The transition from authoritarian to democratic systems is at the heart of political activity. In particular, events in recent years in the Middle East have raised the question of the feasibility of democratization in various contexts. Over the years, researchers have offered theoretical explanations for the factors influencing the movement to democracy, the establishment and retreat in certain cases, as well as questions regarding the nature of democracy itself as an analytical category.

The theoretical framework of the seminar will be based on the central explanations of democratization processes. The seminar itself will rely on an analysis of democratization processes in different cases, relying on the course material. In addition, attention will be paid to the construction of a writing process and the development of writing and presentation skills.

Requirements for the seminar:

- Attendance in meetings according to the university's regulations. Absence as per university regulations does not allow submission of the seminar paper.
- Reading of the reading material prior to meetings.
- Submission of eight reading reports on articles of the reading material (as per instructions to be given later) throughout the year. Submission of the reports is a prerequisite for receiving a grade in the seminar. Among the reading reports, three reading reports will be given random grades (15% of the total).
- Participation in class discussions (5%)
- Presentation of an article for class discussion (5%)
- Final submission of the seminar work (15%)
- Submission of works on reading material (60%)

Seminar based on a joint and gradual process including presentation of a topic and a research question as well as the presentation of the reasoning work throughout the year. Failure to participate in this process does not allow submission of a seminar paper in the course.

Democratization, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Freedom House 2017 Report

Understanding ‘ethnocratic’ regimes: The politics of seizing contested territories. Political Geography, 23(6), 647-676.


Embedded and defective democracies: Where does Israel stand?. In T. Hermann (Ed.), By the people, for the people, without the people? the emergence of (anti)political sentiment in western democracies and in Israel. Jerusalem: The Israeli Democracy Institute. 185-205.


Varieties of Democracy codes


Weyland, K. 2012. The Arab Spring: Why the surprising similarities with the revolutionary wave of 1848?. *Perspectives on Politics* 10(4): 917-934.


