The transition from authoritarian to democratic states is a key concern of political science. 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 proposed theoretical explanations for the factors that drive the transition to democracy, its consolidation, and in some cases, its reversal. The seminar's theoretical basis will be centered on the main explanations of the processes of democratization. The seminar itself will focus on the analysis of democratization/reversal processes in various cases, emphasizing the context of the Middle East.

Seminar Requirements:

- Mandatory attendance according to the university's rules.
- Reading of the reading materials prior to the meetings.
- Submission of 8 reading reports on the articles (according to the guidelines that will be given later).
- The submission of reading reports is a prerequisite for receiving a grade in the seminar. At least 3 reading reports will be given a grade (15%).
- Participation in class discussions (5%).
- Preparation and presentation of a summary and discussion of an article for class (5%).
- Preparing a summary of the seminar framework (10% of the grade).
- Submission of seminar research work (65% of the grade).
The seminar topic is the processes of democratization – an introduction.


Freedom House 2015 Report


Freedom House 2015 methodological section

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.


