		U-LAS06 20040 LE42				
< >	Democracy in Crisis-E2 :Government of, by, and for whom? Democracy in Crisis-E2 :Government of, by, and for whom?					HIJINO Ken
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Course goal: To learn to read critically and learn about democracy from quality articles/book reviews/ journalism (Foreign Affairs, Economist, London Review of Books, New York Review of Books, etc.)

We consider the following questions about democracy

1. What is democracy? How is it under threat?
2. How does free-market capitalism/ globalization/ class, race, and territorial divisions affect the health and viability of democratic processes? Is there an alternative to democracy?
3. How might democracy end? Can it stop/survive climate change and other planetary catastrophes?

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1. Critical reading: understanding what is said, how it is said, but also judging if arguments are logical and/or supported by adequate evidence, and comparing author's claims with others
2. Identifying arguments and evidence
3. Summarizing and presenting what you have learned to others
4. Connecting and comparing ideas (from other readings)
5. Improving English reading, writing and speaking abilities

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Topics covered in 2024 SPRING
[subject to change depending on how the course fares]

What is democracy?

1. Introduction: what is democracy and democratic?
2. Democracy as expression of values and ideas
3. Democracy as institutions and processes
4. Democracy index
5. Autocracy or democracy?

How is it under threat?

6. Polarization and division
7. Apathy and indifference
8. Corruption
9. Populism

10. Poor representation: silver democracy / geographic imbalance

How can it be improved?

11. Lotto-cracy
12. Lowering vote age
13. Deliberative democracy
14. E-democracy
15. Local democracy

Total:14 classes and 1 feedback

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Assessment Method
- Students will be evaluated on their weekly reading responses of about 500 words each (50% = 5% x 10) and a final term paper (50% of grade) which will be minimum 2,000 words as well as 200-word summary and separate citation/referencing
-   I will accept assignment submissions in both Japanese or English.

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1. Read various articles and speeches about democracy and its challenges: approx.. 5,000 words every week
2. Each student prepares and submits a response to one of the articles/speeches in the readings for the week: write down three of the most important/interesting arguments in one article/speech and three questions for the class for discussion   submit to PandA assignment page
3. Reading time = 2-3 hours, preparing summary 60 minutes; expect total of 3-4 hours of extra-class preparation every week
4. You will also be assigned a final term paper that brings together the different topics covered in the class

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I will not have fixed office hours, but students may contact me by email for appointments or questions about the course.

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