INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

OLLI Boulder Winter 2020

8 Week Course – Thursday afternoon – beginning January 16

Three Books are recommended:

Fascism – A Warning by Madelyn Albright (required);

A World in Disarray: American Foreign Policy by Richard Haas (recommended)

The Future of Freedom by Fareed Zakaryii (recommended)

Facilitator: Sherrie Wolff, Ph.D.
Sherrrie.wolff28@gmail.com 303-507-5744

In this course we will discuss U.S. Foreign Relations and Democratization efforts around the world. We will examine various systems of government, including governments in allied countries, war-torn or hostile countries and our relations with them. We will look at countries from the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Russia and Eastern Europe, to South America in order to determine what is happening to democracy today and what is the future of democracy. This course will consist of interactive discussions and lectures. Brief presentations by interested participating members will be encouraged.

Week 1 – January 16th – How international relations is used to promote democracy. What elements determine a country’s foreign policy and the changing nature of democracy.

Slide Presentation: Democratization in Developing Countries.

Week 2 - January 23rd – Evolving nature and changes in U.S. Foreign Policy.

Discussion will cover George Washington’s non-involvement policy, the Monroe Doctrine, domestic Developments in the US and how they shape foreign policy.

We will also consider (briefly!): World War I, Kellog-Briand, League of Nations,
Isolationism, World War II, the Marshall Plan, End of Isolation; Cold War, Containment, Nuclear policies. Policies after the Cold War.


Reading: Fascism, by Madelyn Albright.

Week 4 – February 6 – Changes in Democracy. Over the past decade countries that were democratic are becoming increasingly authoritarian. Examination of Eastern European, Middle Eastern, South American countries.

Reading: “Is Democracy Dying?” Foreign Affairs May/June 2018

Week 5 – February 13 - Role of Nationalism, Populism and Globalization in Foreign Affairs

How has Brexit in UK changed the UK relations with the US, European Union, and other countries? Is this the beginning of similar changes in other European countries?

Week 6 – February 20 - US Foreign Policy in South East Asia, China, North Korea, Africa.

Have we witnessed the end of the American Century and the end of American domination worldwide or is it the natural evolution of cultural changes due to rise of automation?

Reading: Foreign Affairs – May/June 2018

Week 7 - February 27 – Problem areas confronting foreign relations and how important they are to our foreign policy:

Immigration, Climate Change, Human Rights, Religious Differences, Racism.

Discussion

Week 8 – March 5 –Current U.S. Foreign Policy

Use of Foreign Policy for political aims. Reliance on trade as basis of foreign policy. Relationships with Russia, Turkey, Philippines, North Korea, etc.

Reading: The New York Times, October 19, 2018