Can democracy be "downloaded" everywhere, or should we be worried about backlash, repression, and long setbacks to democratic development? This course analyzes the lessons to be learned from crisis-ridden Europe between 1918 and 1940 to examine this contemporary question. We explore regime breakthroughs, breakdowns and democratic survival in Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere in Europe during this dark period in European history. The purpose of the course is to gain a mastery of the European historical experience in this important period and to use this period to develop a grasp that can help us think about the conditions under which economic crisis causes democracy to collapse or to survive.

Requirements
The main requirements for the course are: 1) intensive reading, 2) class participation (the course will be a discussion seminar), and 3) a research paper (20-30 pages) on the fate of democracy in this period in a European country of your choosing.

Grading
Class Participation (including two short 1 page take-home assignments during the term): 40%
Research Proposal: 20%
Final Paper: 40%

Readings:
-Most readings will be available on the course website, always noted [online]
-Four Required readings available at COOP for purchase:


(Other books at Coop are “recommended” or are on suggested reading list)
PART I: INTRODUCTION AND THEORIES

September 7: Introduction
*No reading

September 14: Classical Perspectives

-Robert Dahl, Polyarchy (1971), pp. 1-17; 33-46 [online]

September 21: Economic Theories of Democratic Stability

-John Stephens, Democratic Transition and Breakdown in in Western Europe, 1870-1939” American Journal of Sociology, pp. 1019-1077 [online]

September 28: Institutional and Actor-Centered Theories of Democratic Stability, Part I

-Michael Bernhard, Institutions and the Fate of Democracy, pp. 26-77 [online]
-Sheri Berman, “Understanding Social Democracy” (Manuscript), 2011 pp. 1-37 [online]


October 5: Institutional and Actor Centered Theories of Democratic Stability, Part II

-Giovanni Capoccia, Defending Democracy: Reactions to Extremism in Interwar Europe (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), pp. 3-67; 179-245

Short Assignment #1 Due (1-page précis that lists and summarizes Each Theory we Have Encountered So far)
PART II: APPLICATIONS OF THEORY

October 12: The Dark Continent: Europe, 1918-1933
-Mark Mazower, “The Deserted Temple: Democracy’s Rise and Fall,” Chapter 1, from Mazower’s Dark Continent [online]

Short assignment #2 Due
(1-page précis that identifies all European countries’, date of democratic collapse, conditions etc.)

October 19: Promise and Pitfalls of Individual-level Analysis: The Puzzle of the “Choice” for the Breakdown of Democracy


October 26: The Collapse of Democracy in Italy


October 26: The Collapse of Democracy in Germany
-Richard Evans, The Coming of the Third Reich, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4


November 2: Democracy’s Collapse in Germany vs. Democracy’s Survival in Sweden
November 16: The Fall of Republican France: Old Guard or New Elite?

***Research Proposal Due (4 pages)***

November 23: Spain’s Democratic Experience
-Stanley Payne, *Spain’s First Democracy* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2003), Selections.


November 30: Why Did Democracy Not Fail in Britain?
-Martin Pugh, *Hurrah for the Blackshirts! Fascists and Fascism in Britain between the Wars* (2005), [online]