

Political Science 571
Theories of Democracy
Fall 2005
MW 10:30-12:18
RA 0065

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Today most political theorists and activists endorse the ideal of democracy. Political regimes of all kinds throughout the world describe themselves as democracies. There is a general consensus that democracy is the best -or at least the best possible- form of government. Yet for most of its history democracy has been regarded as among the most undesirable forms of government. This change in the conventional wisdom about the value of democracy is puzzling. What accounts for this shift in contemporary political thought? What exactly is it that political philosophers –and leaders and activists- endorse when they endorse the democratic ideal? And how does this apparent consensus on the value of democracy flourish among different ideological worldviews?

This course provides an overview of debates about the contested meaning and significance of the key political concept, "democracy," with a focus on work by political theorists. Over the course of the quarter we will compare ancient and modern conceptions of democracy and democratic citizenship. We will critically evaluate four major approaches to conceptualizing democracy, reading the work of theorists who emphasize (1) individual rights and representative government; (2) participation and democratic community; (3) reasoned and public deliberation; and (4) difference and political recognition. Moving beyond the apparent consensus on democracy, we will explore and engage in debates about what it means to govern democratically, whether democratic ideals are realized in polities that name themselves democratic, and how best to further the democratic project.

Course Requirements:

- 1) There will be three in-class essay-style examinations. Together these exams count for 75 % of your final grade (25 % each). Make-up exams will only be given if you have been ill and obtain a statement from your doctor.
- 2) To get most out of this class students should read the assignments before the class sessions. To encourage you to read course texts closely, carefully, and before arriving for class, we will have a series of *unannounced quizzes*. We will have at least seven *quizzes* throughout the quarter and your *top five* grades will count for 15% of your grade (3% each). The quizzes will be given at the start of the class session. Hence, if you are late or cannot attend the class, you will not get any credit for the quiz. There are absolutely NO make-ups for the quizzes.

- 3) This class is based on discussion, so your contribution to the class discussions is very important and highly encouraged. The quality of your *class participation* will count for 10% of your grade. Participation does not only mean attending the class. It requires you to be active in the class and contribute to the class discussion.

Grading:

3 midterms:	75 % (25% each)
Top 5 quizzes:	15 % (3% each)
Class participation:	10 %

Course Materials:

1. In order to minimize your expenses, I have provided web links to several class readings that are available on the internet. For the Thucydides excerpt, the Mill essay, and Federalist #10 simply connect to the website provided. For the journal articles, connect to the OSU library website [<http://library.ohio-state.edu/search>] click on “Journals (Online)”, enter the journal title, and follow the directions to connect to the website. For those who prefer, a hard copy of these readings is available through the reserve desk at the main Library.

2. Many of the readings for this course are available on electronic reserve, through the Main Library. See attached instructions for accessing electronic reserve. In addition, hard copies of e-reserve readings are available through the reserve desk at the Main Library.

3. The following two books are on sale at SBX and on reserve at the Main Library:
John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Hackett)
Jean Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (Penguin)

Academic Misconduct:

All of the work you do in the course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else’s ideas or words without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to the university policy and reported to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct. For more on university policy, see <http://www.osu.edu/offices/oaa/procedures>.

Students with disabilities should make their needs known to me and seek available assistance during the first week of the quarter. For course materials in alternative formats please see me or contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall 292-2880.

Schedule of the Class Meetings

[E] = Article or book excerpt, available through electronic reserve and 2-hour reserve at the Main Library

[B] = Book, on sale at SBX, and on 24-hour reserve at the Main Library

I. Introduction

Wednesday, September 21

Introduction and overview. (no readings)

II. Classical democracy: Athens

Monday, September 26

Thucydides, Pericles funeral oration [available online at:
[<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/pericles-funeralspeech.html>]

Aristotle, *The Politics*, Book III, chapters 1-5 [E]

Wednesday, September 28

Aristotle, *The Politics*, Book III, chapters 6-18 [E]

III. Individual rights and representative government

Monday, October 3

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chapters 1-6 [B]

Wednesday, October 5

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chapters 7-11 [B]

Monday, October 10

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chapters 12-19 [B]

Wednesday, October 12

James Mill, *An Essay on Government* [available online at:
<http://www.mdx.ac.uk/www/study/xMilGov.htm>]

James Madison, *Federalist #10* [available online at:
<http://www.constitution.org/fed/federa10.htm>]

Review for the exam

Monday, October 17

FIRST MIDTERM EXAM

Wednesday, October 19

T.H. Marshall, “Citizenship and Social Class”, pp.1-45 [E]

Monday, October 24

T.H. Marshall, “Citizenship and Social Class”, pp.46-85 [E]

IV. Participation and democratic community

Wednesday October 26

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, books 1-2 [B]

Monday, October 31

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, book 3 [B]

Wednesday, November 2

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, book 4 [B]

Monday, November 7

Benjamin Barber, “Citizenship and Participation” [E]

Wednesday, November 9

Anne Philips “Paradoxes of Participation” [E]

Review for the exam

Monday, November 14

SECOND MIDTERM EXAM

V. Reasoned and public deliberation

Wednesday, November 16

Jon Elster, “The Market and the Forum” [E]

Monday, November 21

Bruce Ackerman and James Fishkin, “Deliberation Day”, *Journal of Political Philosophy* 10: 2 (June 2002): 129-152 [online, through library website, online journals]

Wednesday, November 23

Lynn Sanders, “Against Deliberation”, *Political Theory* 25: 3 (June 1997): 347-76. [online, through library website, online journals]

VI. Difference and political recognition

Monday, November 28

Iris Marion Young, “Polity and Group Difference: A Critique of the Ideal of Universal Citizenship”, *Ethics*, Vol. 99, No. 2 (Jan., 1989), 250-274 [online, through library website, online journals]

Wednesday, November 30

Ayelet Shachar, “Multicultural Vulnerability”, *Political Theory*, Vol.28, No.1 (Feb., 2000), 64-89 [online, through library website, online journals]

Review for the exam

Thursday, December 8

THIRD MIDTERM EXAM 7:30 –9:18 AM at Ramseyer Hall 0065