

Political Science 581: Philosophical Foundations of Political Science
Instructor: James Johnson (Harkness 312 ~ jd.johnson@rochester.edu)
Term: Fall 2011

This year the seminar will focus on broad matters in the theory of democracy. It has three aims:

- (a) to help make you modestly literate regarding some important topics in contemporary political theory as well how these derive from writings published prior to say, 1980;
- (b) to get you to think about the foundations of our discipline, in particular the putative dichotomy between facts and values;
- (c) to familiarize you with a range of strategies for justifying or criticizing political arrangements or policies.

You have two primary tasks. First, you must actively engage in discussion in class. I want to make it clear that I expect active classroom participation - no reminders, no warnings, no cajoling. That means you need to have something to say – it should be smart and on point. *That* means you need to read and think in between class meetings. While that may sound patronizing, past experience suggests that I need to say things bluntly. Participation will count for 20% of your grade. Second, you must write four take-home assignments. The latter will be distributed and due on the dates indicated on the schedule below. I will pose a question or questions or propose a topic and you will respond, drawing on assigned readings. (Consider this part of “the violence inherent in the system!”- see page 2 for the reference.) There will be a strict page limit – in the vicinity of 5-6 typed pages. ***I will not accept late papers absent the most dire extenuating circumstances.*** Each of the papers will be worth 20% of your grade.

Background

Many of you have little or no background in political theory. (I venture to guess that you think you have little or no interest in or need for acquaintance with the field either!) Should you feel the need to consult a basic survey of the subject, here are some reliable candidates:

Raymond Geuss. 2001. *History & Illusion in Politics*. Cambridge UP.

Jean Hampton. 1996. *Political Philosophy*. Westview Press.

Will Kymlicka. 2001. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction*. Oxford UP.

Ian Shapiro. 2004. *The Moral Foundations of Politics*. Yale UP.

Jonathan Wolff. 2006. *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*. Oxford UP.

I list these in no particular order. Be warned – nearly all of the authors draw a sharper distinction between “normative” political theory and “positive” social science than I think is sustainable.

Required Readings

Eleven books - marked * - are required. I have not ordered them for this course at the bookstore. However, Rousseau, Marx, Mill, Dewey, Arendt, Foucault, and Riker all are on order there for my undergraduate course (PSC 284). You should be able to obtain all the required books in paperback - and probably used – from your favorite e-purveyor. I recommend the editions I indicate here because the titles are deceiving – several of these are collections and I will ask you to read specific works.

Other Readings: In *Monty Python & the Holy Grail* there is a famous scene where King Arthur engages in heated debate over the notion of sovereignty with a handful of very contentious, muddy peasants. The peasants announce that they belong to an “autonomous collective,” a “self-governing anarcho-syndicalist commune” and so have little regard for the pretenses of centralized monarchical authority. I find their arguments persuasive. (See: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8bqQ-C1PSE&feature=related> if you are unfamiliar with this canonical argument.) So this course will operate in much the same way as that scene. You can think of me as King Arthur and think of yourselves as the contentious peasants. That means you will need to act as a self-governing collective. Each week you students will “take it in turns” (by some method of your own devising) to insure the availability for the following week of any of the relevant reading materials not available via e-journals from the library. This will require that the chosen ones ascertain which readings are not easily available on the web, obtain those readings from me, copy them if necessary (at my expense), and make sure that they are placed on electronic reserve at Rush Rhees Library – or are otherwise made available to the entire class. I have nearly all the papers assigned here in pdf format.

Please Note: We will not meet the first week of the term (September 2nd) since I will be in Seattle for APSA. We will start in on September 9th with Putnam *The Collapse of the Fact Value Dichotomy* and Geuss *Public Goods, Private Goods*. You should have finished both books by then.

Class Schedule

Week One (September 1)

No Class.

Week Two (September 8)

* Hilary Putnam. 2002. *The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy & Other Essays*. Harvard UP. ISBN-13: 978-0674013803

* Raymond Geuss. 2001. *Public Goods, Private Goods*. Princeton UP.
ISBN-13: 978-0691117201.

W.V.O. Quine. 2004 [1951]. "Two Dogmas of Empiricism." In *Quintessence*.
Harvard UP. [Chapter 2]

Daniel Hausman. 2010. "Mistakes about Preferences in the Social Sciences,"
Philosophy of the Social Sciences 41:3-25.

Week Three (September 15)

*Amartya Sen. 1998. *Development as Freedom*. Knopf.

Partha Dasgupta. 2005. "What Do Economists Analyze and Why: Values or
Facts?" *Economics and Philosophy* 21:221-278.

Hilary Putnam & Vivian Walsh. 2007. "A Response to Dasgupta." *Economics
and Philosophy* 23:359-364.

Partha Dasgupta. 2007. "Reply to Putnam and Walsh." *Economics and
Philosophy* 23:365-372.

Hilary Putnam & Vivian Walsh. 2007. "Facts, Theories, Values And Destitution
In The Works Of. Sir Partha Dasgupta," *Review of Political Economy* 19:181-202.

First Writing Assignment Distributed

Week Four (September 22)

* Jean-Jacques Rousseau. 1997. *The Social Contract and Other Later Political Writings*
(Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought). ISBN-10: 0521424461.

Kim Lane Scheppele and Jeremy Waldron. 1991. "Contractarian Methods in
Political and Legal Evaluation," *Yale Journal of Law & the Humanities* 3:195-
230.

Bernard Grofman & Scott Feld. 1988. "Rousseau's General Will," *American
Political Science Review* 82:567-76.

David Estlund, et al. 1989. "Democratic Theory and the Public Interest," *American
Political Science Review* 83:1317-40.

Christian List and Robert E. Goodin. 2001. "Epistemic Democracy: Generalizing the Condorcet Jury Theorem," *Journal of Political Philosophy* 9:276–306.

Elizabeth Anderson. 2007. "The Epistemology of Democracy," *Episteme* 3:8-22

First Writing Assignment Due

Week Five (September 29)

* Karl Marx . 1996. *Later Political Writings* (Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought). Cambridge University Press. ISBN-10: 0521367395.

Louis Putterman. 1997. "Why Have the Rabble Not Redistributed the Wealth? On the Stability of Democracy and Unequal Property." In *Property Relations, Incentives and Welfare*. Edited by John Roemer. Palgrave Macmillan.

Michael Wallerstein. 1997. "Comment." In *Property Relations, Incentives and Welfare*. Edited by John Roemer. Palgrave Macmillan.

John Roemer. 1998. "Why The Poor Do Not Expropriate the Rich," *Journal of Public Economics* 70:399-424.

Ian Shapiro. 2002. "Why the Poor Don't Soak the Rich," *Daedalus* 131:118-28.

Charles Lindblom. 1982. "The Market as Prison," *Journal of Politics* 44:324-36.

G.A. Cohen. 2001. "Why Not Socialism?" In *Democratic Equality*. Edited by E. Broadbent. University of Toronto Press.

Week Six (October 6)

* John Stuart Mill. 2008. *On Liberty and Other Essays* (Oxford World's Classics). Oxford University Press. ISBN-10: 0199535736.

Phillip Pettit. 1991. "Consequentialism." In Peter Singer, ed., *A Companion to Ethics*. Blackwell Publishers.

Mark Warren & Nadia Urbinati. 2008. "The Concept of Representation in Contemporary Democratic Theory," *Annual Review of Political Science* 11: 387-412.

Bernard Manin. 1994. "The Metamorphoses of Representative Government," *Economy and Society* 23:133-71.

David Plotke. 1997. "Representation is Democracy," *Constellations* 4:19-34.

Jeremy Waldron. 1998. "Participation: the Right of Rights," *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 98:307-337.

Phillip Pettit & Geoffrey Brennan. 1990. "Unveiling the Vote," *British Journal of Political Science* 20: 311-33.

Jane Mansbridge. 1999. "On the Idea that Participation Makes Better Citizens." In *Citizen Competence and Democratic Institutions*. Ed. S. Elkin & K. Soltan. Penn State Press.

Second writing Assignment Distributed

Week Seven (October 13)

*John Dewey. 1927. *The Public & Its Problems*. Swallow Press. ISBN-10: 0804002541.

Charles S. Peirce. 1877. "The Fixation of Belief." In *The Pragmatism Reader*. Edited by Robert Talisse & Scott Aikin. Princeton University Press.

Charles S. Peirce. 1878. "How to Make Our Ideas Clear." In *The Pragmatism Reader*. Edited by Robert Talisse & Scott Aikin. Princeton University Press.

John Dewey. 1939. "Creative Democracy: The Task Before Us." In *The Essential Dewey: Volume 1 - Pragmatism, Education, Democracy*. Edited by L. Hickman & T. Alexander. Indiana University Press.

Richard Bernstein. 1986. "John Dewey On Democracy—The Task Before Us." In *Philosophical Profiles: Essays In A Pragmatic Mode*. University of Pennsylvania Press.

Richard Posner. 2003. *Law, Pragmatism & Democracy*. Harvard UP. (97-213).

Jack Knight & James Johnson. 2007. "The Priority of Democracy: A Pragmatist Approach to Political-Economic Institutions and the Burden of Justification," *American Political Science Review* 101: 47-61.

Second Writing Assignment Due

Week Eight (October 20)

* Michel Foucault (Author). 1979. *Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. Vintage. ISBN-10: 0679752552.

James Johnson. 1997. "Communication, Criticism & the Postmodern Consensus," *Political Theory* 25:559-583.

James Scott. 2010. "The Trouble with the View from Above"
<http://www.cato-unbound.org/2010/09/08/james-c-scott/the-trouble-with-the-view-from-above/print/>

Week Nine (October 27)

* Hannah Arendt. 2006. *On Revolution*. Penguin Classics. ISBN-10: 0143039903.

Jeffrey Isaac. 1994. "Oases in the Desert: Hannah Arendt on Democratic Politics," *The American Political Science Review* 88:156-168.

Jeremy Waldron. 2000. "Arendt's Constitutional Politics." In *The Cambridge Companion to Hannah Arendt*. Edited by Dana Villa. Cambridge UP.

Week Ten (November 3)

* William Riker. 1988. *Liberalism Against Populism*. Waveland. ISBN-10:0881333670.

Jack Knight & James Johnson. 1994. "Aggregation & Deliberation: On the Possibility of Democratic Legitimacy," *Political Theory* 22:277-96.

Partha Dasgupta & Eric Maskin. 2008. "On the Robustness of Majority Rule," *Journal of the European Economic Association* 6:949-973

Mathias Risse. 2009. "On the Philosophy of Group Decision Methods I: The Nonobviousness of Majority Rule," *Philosophy Compass* 4:793-802.

Mathias Risse. 2009. "On the Philosophy of Group Decision Methods II: Alternatives to Majority Rule," *Philosophy Compass* 4:803-812.

Jane Mansbridge, *et al.* 2010. "The Place of Self-Interest and the Role of Power in Deliberative Democracy," *Journal of Political Philosophy* 18: 64-100.

Gerry Mackie. 2006. "Does Democratic Deliberation Change Minds?" *Politics, Philosophy and Economics* 5:279-303.

Third Writing Assignment Distributed

Week Eleven (November 10)

Debra Satz. 2004. "Noxious Markets: Why Some Things Should Not Be For Sale." *Globalization, Culture, and the Limits of the Market*. Edited by Stephen Cullenberg and Prasanta K. Pattanaik. Oxford University Press.

Debra Satz. 2003. "Child Labor: A Normative Perspective," *World Bank Economic Review* 17:297-309.

Debra Satz. 1995. "Markets in Women's Sexual Labor," *Ethics* 106: 63-85

Debra Satz. 1992. "Markets in Women's Reproductive Labor," *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 21:107-131.

Michael Sandel. 1998. "What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets," *Tanner Lectures on Human Values*:
<http://www.tannerlectures.utah.edu/lectures/atoz.html>

Phillip Pettit. 2006. "Freedom in the Market," *Politics, Philosophy & Economics* 5:131-149.

Phillip Pettit & Frank Lovett. 2009. "Neorepublicanism: A Normative and Institutional Research Program," *Annual Review of Political Science* 12:11-29.

Third Writing Assignment Due.

Week Twelve (November 17)

Joseph Schumpeter. 1947. *Capitalism, Socialism & Democracy*. Harper. (232-303)

Adam Przeworski. 1999. "Minimalist Conception of Democracy: A Defense." In *Democracy's Value*. Edited by Ian Shapiro & Casiano Hacker-Cordon. Cambridge University Press.

Gerry Mackie. 2009. "Schumpeter's Leadership Democracy," *Political Theory* 37:128-153.

Michael Saward. 1994. "Democratic theory and indices of democratization." In David Beetham, ed. *Defining and Measuring Democracy*. Sage Publications.

Gerardo Munck & Jay Verkuilen. 2002. "Conceptualizing And Measuring Democracy," *Comparative Political Studies*. 35:5-34.

Michael Coppedge. 2002. "Democracy And Dimensions," *Comparative Political Studies*. 35:35-39.

David Collier and Robert Adcock. 1999. "Democracy And Dichotomies: A Pragmatic Approach To Choices About Concepts," *Annual Review of Political Science* 2:537 – 65

David Collier, *et. al.* 2006. "Essentially contested concepts: Debates and applications," *Journal of Political Ideologies* 11:211–246.

Jeffrey Winters and Benjamin Page. 2009. "Oligarchy in the United States?" *Perspectives on Politics* 7:731-51.

Michael Coppedge, *et al.* 2011. "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: A New Approach," *Perspectives on Politics* 9:247-67.

Week Thirteen (November 24)

No Class – Happy Thanksgiving!

(Week Fourteen) December 1

* Adam Przeworski. 2010. *Democracy & the Limits of Self Government*. Cambridge University Press.

Final Assignment Distributed

(Week Fifteen) December 8

Catch Up/ Wrap Up

Final Assignment Due