Political Science 284/W ~ Democratic Theory
Fall Term 2011 ~ T-Th 11:05-12:20

Instructor: James Johnson
Harkness 312
jd.johnson@rochester.edu

Teaching Assistant: Rob Carroll
Harkness 334
rcarroll@mail.rochester.edu

This is a course on the theoretical underpinnings of democratic politics. We will examine a range of issues surrounding the analysis and justification of sovereignty, representation, participation, authority, voting.

Class Meetings: There are several important matters here.

(1) Attendance is not optional. If you have to miss class please be prepared to explain why. We will be taking attendance.

(2) Unless there are significant extenuating circumstances, you should not use a laptop or tablet or other such electronic device in class. Turn off your cell phones (smart or dumb as they may be). If you need to shop, check email or tend your Facebook page, please do so on your own time.

(3) You should aim to do the assigned readings (more on those below) before class.

(4) This is a large class. I will spend a considerable amount of time lecturing. That said, I will regularly solicit your questions and objections. There is no reason, however, to wait to be asked. You should feel free to raise questions or objections as we proceed. In other words, I welcome your interruptions – although I reserve the right to put off questions in the interests of time as need be.

Written Assignments: There will be three. All will be equally weighted for grading purposes. They will be take home, with questions posed for you to answer in light of readings and lectures. There will be strict page limits. I will provide detailed instructions with each assignment. The dates for the assignments appear on the schedule below. I will not accept late papers except under the most dire of extenuating circumstances.

Students enrolled for upper-level writing credit should speak to me outside of class no later than 15 September 2011.

Required Books: There are seven. I have ordered them at the UR bookstore, but you should also be able to fund inexpensive used copies at your preferred e-purveyor. I recommend the editions I note here since they are collections an the titles are misleading.


The following, additional readings for the course will be available on Blackboard.


James Madison. 1787. *Federalist #10*  
http://www.constitution.org/fed/federa10.htm


You will note that these readings are largely not from textbooks. They will be heavy going at times. Fair warning.
Class Schedule

September 1 - No Class
September 6 - No Class
September 8 - Rousseau
September 13 - Rousseau
September 15 – Rousseau;
    Scheppele & Waldron
September 20 - Marx
September 22 - Marx
September 27 – Marx; Madison
September 29 – Cohen
    *1st Assignment Distributed*

October 4 - Mill
October 6 – Mill
    *1st Assignment Due*

October 11 - No Class
October 13 – Mill

October 18 – Pettit; Manin
October 20 - Mansbridge;
    Pettit & Brennan

October 25 - Dewey
October 27 – Dewey

November 1 – Hardin;
    Kitcher; Epstein
November 3 – Schumpeter
    *2nd Assignment Distributed*

November 8 – Rosenblum; Muirhead
November 10 – Arendt
    *2nd Assignment Due*

November 15 - Arendt
November 17 - Foucault

November 22 – Foucault
November 24 No Class

November 29 - Riker
December 1 - Riker

December 6 – Hacker & Pierson
December 8 - Winters & Page

December 13 – Wrap Up/Catch Up
    *3rd Assignment Distributed*

December 21 – Noon!
    *3rd Assignment Due*