

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

Instructor:

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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 find inexpensive used copies at your preferred e-purveyor. I recommend the editions I note here since they are collections and the titles are misleading.

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

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

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

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

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

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

William Riker. 1980. *Liberalism Against Populism*. Waveland. ISBN-10:0881333670.

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

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

Steven Epstein. 2000. "Democracy, Expertise, and AIDS Treatment Activism." In *Science, Technology, and Democracy*, ed. Daniel Kleinman. State University of New York Press.

Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson. 2010. "Winner-Take-All Politics: Public Policy, Political Organization, and the Precipitous Rise of Top Incomes in the United States," *Politics & Society* 38:152-204.

Russell Hardin 2002. "Street-Level Epistemology and Democratic Participation." *Journal of Political Philosophy* 10:212–229.

Phillip Kitcher. 2006. "Public Knowledge & the Difficulties of Democracy," *Social Research* 73:1205-24.

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

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

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.

Russell Muirhead. 2006. "A Defense of Party Spirit," *Perspectives on Politics* 4:713-727.

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

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

Nancy Rosenblu, 2009. "Anything but Partisanship: Anti-partyism, Bipartisanship, and the Luster of Independence," *Dissent* (on line) <http://www.dissentmagazine.org/online.php?id=302>:

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

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

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

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;
Scheppelle & 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