

**Political Science 284/484: Democratic Theory**  
**Fall Semester 2001 ■ Instructor: James Johnson**  
**Office: 312 Harkness Hall ■ 275-0622 ■ [jjsn@troi.cc.rochester.edu](mailto:jjsn@troi.cc.rochester.edu)**

This course is an intensive critical survey of difficulties involved in thinking about democracy. In particular we will take up two related topics. We will assess whether and, if so, how democracy might be normatively justified. And we will examine the vicissitudes of establishing and operating democratic institutions. Although prior course work in political theory may prove helpful, I do not expect students to have such a background. The only prerequisite is a willingness to work hard and to confront head on some important, difficult political issues.

This course is not for the faint-hearted. First, the reading assignments are difficult and heavy - they are not drawn from pre-digested textbook presentations. It is imperative that you the students keep up with the reading. Writing assignments draw explicitly and extensively on the assigned readings. Second, class meetings will combine lecture and discussion. I will regularly solicit student questions and comments on the assigned reading. From this it follows both that class attendance is *not* optional and that I expect students to be prepared to participate actively. While the bulk of your grade will be based directly on your performance on written assignments, at the margins your grade will reflect your attendance and participation. Furthermore, you certainly will find it difficult to do well on written assignments if you do not attend class. If you need to miss class please be prepared to explain why.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS**

The first, most important point is that assignments must be submitted on time. You have more than enough time to prepare the assignments. *I will not accept late assignments. So please take note of the due dates specified below. **If for any reason you anticipate problems getting in an assignment on time please speak with me before it is distributed so that we can make alternative arrangements.*** There are two written assignments. Each will cover material from the assigned readings and class lectures and discussion. You can anticipate having to write 10-12 typewritten pages on both the mid-term and final. For grading purposes they will be weighted equally.

*Assignment #1:* I will distribute a take-home mid-term in class on Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup> and is due in class on Thursday October 18<sup>th</sup> This assignment will cover material from the first half of the course.

*Assignment #2:* I will distribute a take-home final exam in class on Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup>. It is due in my office on Tuesday December 18<sup>th</sup> at noon. It will cover the second half of the course but will also require that you connect this material to themes discussed in the first half of the course.

## REQUIRED READINGS

Books (marked \*) are available at the University Bookstore. A few of the remaining readings are available on the web and I have indicated where you might find them. The rest are on two-hour Reserve at the Library. Given the class size, this may create some bottlenecks. So please plan ahead and be considerate of other students. We will read the assigned material roughly in the order that I list it here. I will alert you to where we are on the list as the course progresses.

\* Jean-Jacques Rousseau. *The Social Contract*. Penguin.

Carole Pateman. 1989. *The Disorder of Women*. Stanford  
[Ch. 4 - "Women & Consent," pp. 71-89].

Hannah Pitkin. 1989. "Representation." In *Political Innovation & Conceptual Change* ed. T. Ball, et al. Cambridge. pp. 132-54.

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

\* John Stuart Mill. *On Liberty and Other Essays*. Oxford.

\* William Riker. 1982. *Liberalism Against Populism*. Waveland.

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

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

Walter Lippman. 1925. *The Phantom Public*. Transaction. [Part I]

Micheal Delli Carpini and Scott Keeter. 1996. *What Americans Know About Politics and Why It Matters*. Yale. [chs. 1,2,4,6]

Lynn Sanders. 1999. "Democratic Politics and Survey Research," *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 29:248-80.

\* John Dewey. 1927. *The Public and Its Problems*. Swallow Press.

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

Mark Warren. 1992. "Democratic Theory and Self-Transformation," *American Political Science*

*Review* 86:8-23. (Available online via JSTOR).

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.

Robert Westbrook. 1996. "Public Schooling and American Democracy." In *Democracy, Education and the Schools*. ed. Roger Soder. Jossey-Bass.

Marion Smiley. 1999. "Democratic Citizenship: A Question of Competence?" In *Citizen Competence and Democratic Institutions* . Ed. S. Elkin & K. Soltan. Penn State Press.

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

Lynn Sanders. 1997. "Against Deliberation," *Political Theory* 25:347-76.

Mark Warren. 1996. "Deliberative Democracy and Authority," *American Political Science Review* 90:46-60. (Available online via JSTOR).

\* William Keech. 1995. *Economic Politics: The Costs of Democracy*. Cambridge.

Joshua Cohen and Joel Rogers. 1983. *On Democracy*. Penguin. [Chapter 3].

Przeworski, Adam. 1996. "A Better Democracy, A Better Economy," *Boston Review* (April/May) 9-15. (Available online at <http://bostonreview.mit.edu/archives.html>)