

Political Science 571
Political Theories of Democracy
Professor Hayward

Office hours: T, Th., 10:30 - 11:30, and by appt.
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M-F 1:30 - 3:18
Boyd Lab 311

For most of its history, democracy has been regarded as among the most undesirable forms of government. For Aristotle, who defined it as "rule with a view to the advantage of those who are poor," democracy was a "deviation" from the superior form of government he termed polity, a mixed regime that included oligarchic elements. For Plato, democracy was characterized by total license; it naturally degenerated into tyranny. And even for the American "Founding Father" James Madison, democracy—understood as direct popular rule—was a dangerous form of government posing serious threats to both individual rights and collective well-being. By the start of the twenty-first century, however, it seems that the conventional wisdom about democracy has taken a 180 degree turn. Few contemporary political thinkers fail to endorse democracy as the best—or at least the best possible—form of rule. And few political practitioners claim to be anything other than "small d" democrats. What accounts for this shift in the place accorded democracy 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 thrive amidst profound disagreement about political ends?

This course provides an overview of debates about the contested meaning and significance of this key political concept, "democracy," with a focus in particular on debates among political theorists and philosophers. Over the course of the quarter, we will compare ancient and modern conceptions of democracy and democratic citizenship. We will ask what role, if any, rights should play in our understanding of democratic self-governance. We will ask what democratic political participation does, and should, entail. And we will consider recent arguments in favor of, and against, a specifically deliberative understanding of democracy. More generally, moving beyond the apparent consensus on democracy, we will explore and engage in debates about what it means to govern democratically, whether democracy is in fact realized in polities that claim its name, and how best to further the democratic project.

Course Requirements*

1. You must complete all required readings in a timely fashion. To encourage you to read course texts closely, carefully, and *before* arriving for class, we will have a series of unannounced quizzes to check reading comprehension. These quizzes, which should take no more than five minutes to complete, will be given at the start of class. We will have at least eight quizzes over the course of the quarter. Your top six grades will count for 30 percent of your course grade (five percent per quiz).
2. You will write two in-class, essay-style examinations. Together, these exams count for 60 percent of your grade (30 percent each).
3. Participation counts for ten percent of your grade. Participation requirements include class attendance, good preparation, and active and informed participation in class discussions.

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 and the Mill essay, 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 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 the Ohio State Book store, SBX, and Long's, and on reserve at the Main Library:
John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Hackett)
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (Penguin)

** All of the work that you do in this course must be your own. Plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without citing them) and other forms of cheating will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.*

** Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor and seeking available assistance in the first week of the quarter. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. For such materials please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 N. Oval Mall, 292-2880.*

Course Syllabus and Schedule of Class Meetings

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

[B] = Book, on sale at OSU Book Store, SBX, and Long's, and on 24-hour reserve at the Main Library.

Monday, June 23

Introduction and overview. (No readings.)

Tuesday, June 24

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

Wednesday, June 25

Aristotle, *The Politics*, Book III, chapters 1-9 [E]

Thursday, June 26

Aristotle, *The Politics*, Book III, chapters 10-18 [E]

Friday, June 27

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

Monday, June 30

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

Tuesday, July 1

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

Wednesday, July 2

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

Thursday, July 3

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

Friday, July 4 NO CLASS: OSU CLOSED FOR JULY 4

Monday, July 7

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

Tuesday, July 8

Review and synthesis (No readings).

Wednesday, July 9 IN-CLASS ESSAY-STYLE EXAMINATION

Thursday, July 10

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

Friday, July 11

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

Monday, July 14

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

Tuesday, July 15

Benjamin Barber, "Citizenship and Participation" [E]

Wednesday, July 16

Anne Phillips, "Paradoxes of Participation" [E]

Thursday, July 17

Review and synthesis (No readings).

Friday, July 18

IN-CLASS ESSAY-STYLE EXAMINATION

Monday, July 21

Jon Elster, "The Market and the Forum" [E]

Tuesday, July 22

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

Wednesday, July 23

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