

Centre for Political Studies
MA Programme
PO507 Democratic Theory
4 Credits

The aim of this course is to critically comprehend terms such as “people,” “demos,” “rule,” “popular sovereignty,” “constituent power,” “representation,” “deliberation,” “constituency,” and “citizenship.” Many of these terms can be associated with both procedural and agonistic conceptions of democracy. The hope is that the course will permit consideration of the meaning of the above terms, as far as possible, from the perspective of both conceptions of democracy. As well, the course aims to enable familiarity with classifications of democracy that go under headings such as “liberal,” “radical,” and “socialist.” For themes such as constituent power and representation, the course will entail engagement with both contemporary democratic theory and the history of democratic political thought. The course will also probe how different strands of contemporary democratic theory engage (i) contestation, persuasion, rhetoric and deliberation; (ii) association and participation; (iii) modes of representation in formal decision making forums; and (iv) the effect on democratic politics of claims to group rights. Reading materials for the course will also consider the phenomenon of transnational democracy, and issues related to the impact of the new social media on democratic theory and practice.

Based on the above, the course is divided into the following segments:

1. (a) Cultures of Democracy
 (b) Democracy and the Political
2. (a) Elitist Theory of Democracy and Its Critics
 (b) Liberal Democracy and Its Critics
3. Representation
4. Participation, Persuasion, Rhetoric and Populism
5. Citizenship

Selected Readings

Danielle Allen, and Jennifer S. Light, eds. *From voice to influence: Understanding citizenship in a digital age*. University of Chicago Press, 2015.

Hannah Arendt, selections from *On Revolution* and *The Human Condition*

Brian Barry, “Is Democracy Special?” from *Democracy and Power*

Joshua Cohen, "An epistemic conception of democracy." *Ethics* 97, no. 1 (1986): 26-38

Margaret Canovan, selections from *The People*

Simone Chambers, "Democracy, popular sovereignty, and constitutional legitimacy." *Constellations* 11, no. 2 (2004): 153-173.

Simone Chambers, "Rhetoric and the public sphere: Has deliberative democracy abandoned mass democracy?" *Political Theory* 37, no. 3 (2009): 323-350.

Partha Chatterjee, selections from *Politics of the Governed* and *Lineages of Political Society*

Archon Fung, "Associations and democracy: Between theories, hopes, and realities." *Annual Review of Sociology* 29, no. 1 (2003): 515-539.

Archon Fung, "Putting the public back into governance: The challenges of citizen participation and its future." *Public Administration Review* 75, no. 4 (2015): 513-522.

Archon Fung, "Deliberation before the revolution: Toward an ethics of deliberative democracy in an unjust world." *Political Theory* 33, no. 3 (2005): 397-419.

Bryan Garsten, "The rhetoric revival in political theory." *Annual Review of Political Science* 14 (2011): 159-180.

Bryan Garsten, selections from *Saving Persuasion*

Phillip Green (ed.) *Democracy* for selections from the writings of Robert Michels, Max Weber, Joseph A. Schumpeter, Berelson, Lazarsfeld and McPhee, John Dewey and Peter Bachrach

Robert E. Goodin, "Enfranchising all affected interests, and its alternatives." *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 35, no. 1 (2007): 40-68.

Lani Guinier, "Beyond electocracy: Rethinking the political representative as powerful stranger." *The Modern Law Review* 71, no. 1 (2008): 1-35.

Jurgen Habermas, "Three Normative Models of Democracy," in *Democracy and Difference: Contesting the Boundaries of the Political*. Edited by Seyla Benhabib.

Jürgen Habermas, "Constitutional Democracy: A Paradoxical Union of Contradictory Principles?" *Political Theory* 29:6 (December 2001), 766-81

Andreas Kalyvas, selections from *Democracy and the Politics of the Extraordinary*

Alan Keenan, selections from *Democracy in Question*

Charles Larmore, "Carl Schmitt's Critique of Liberal Democracy," from *The Morals of Modernity*

Annabelle Lever, "Privacy rights and democracy: a contradiction in terms?" *Contemporary Political Theory* 5, no. 2 (2006): 142-162.

Annabelle Lever, "Compulsory voting: a critical perspective." *British Journal of Political Science* 40, no. 4 (2010): 897-915.

Martin Loughlin, "The concept of constituent power." *European Journal of Political Theory* 13, no. 2 (2014): 218-237.

Jane Mansbridge, "Clarifying the concept of representation." *American Political Science Review* 105, no. 3 (2011): 621-630.

Jane Mansbridge, "Should blacks represent blacks and women represent women? A contingent 'yes'." *The Journal of Politics* 61, no. 3 (1999): 628-657.

Patchen Markell, "The rule of the people: Arendt, arche, and democracy." *American Political Science Review* 100, no. 1 (2006): 1-14.

Chantal Mouffe and Ernesto Laclau, selections from *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy*
Jan-Werner Müller, "The people must be extracted from within the people': Reflections on populism." *Constellations* 21, no. 4 (2014): 483-493.

Josiah Ober, "The original meaning of "democracy": Capacity to do things, not majority rule." *Constellations* 15, no. 1 (2008): 3-9.

Anne Phillips, selections from *The Politics of Presence*

Andrew Rehfeld, "Towards a general theory of political representation." *Journal of Politics* 68, no. 1 (2006): 1-21.

Andrew Rehfeld, "Representation rethought: on trustees, delegates, and gyroscopes in the study of political representation and democracy." *American Political Science Review* 103, no. 2 (2009): 214-230.

Andrew Rehfeld, "The concepts of representation." *American Political Science Review* 105, no. 3 (2011): 631-641.

Andrew Rehfeld, selections from *The Concept of Constituency*

Emmanuel Joseph Sieyès, *Political Writings*, ed. M. Sonenscher

Alexis de Tocqueville, selections from *Democracy in America*

Charles Taylor, "Cultures of democracy and citizen efficacy." *Public Culture* 19, no. 1 (2007): 117-150.

Charles Taylor "Modes of Secularism" in Rajeev Bhargava (ed.) *Secularism and Its Critics*

Nadia Urbinati and Mark E. Warren. "The concept of representation in contemporary democratic theory." *Annual Review of Political Science* 11 (2008): 387-412.

Mark Warren "Democratic theory and self-transformation." *American Political Science Review* 86, no. 1 (1992): 8-23.

Mark Warren, selections from *Democracy and Association*

Melissa S. Williams, selections from *Voice, Trust and Memory*

Melissa S. Williams, "Nonterritorial boundaries of citizenship" in *Identities, affiliations, and allegiances*

Melissa S. Williams, "Citizenship as Agency within Communities of Shared Fate" in *Unsettled legitimacy: Political community, power, and authority in a global era*

Sheldon Wolin, "Fugitive Democracy" in *Democracy and Difference: Contesting the Boundaries of the Political*. Edited by Seyla Benhabib.

Sheldon Wolin, "Hannah Arendt: democracy and the political." *Salmagundi* 60 (1983): 3-19.

Iris Marion Young, selections from *Democracy and Inclusion*