

POLS 482: Democratic Theory
CRNS: 40987 (undergrad); 40995 (grad)
Mondays 3:30-6:00 p.m., BSB 1171

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS

Who are the people, and what does it mean for them to rule? In this course we investigate canonical and contemporary debates in democratic theory. We will explore arguments about democracy both as an institutionalized form of government and as a critical or mobilizing force or idea. We read ancient, modern, and contemporary texts, mostly from and about the ancient Mediterranean and modern North Atlantic worlds.

The requirements for POLS 482 are, above all, to read carefully and to attend faithfully every week, ready to participate. Students will be expected to write weekly memos. In addition, students will be responsible for doing their part in group presentations, and for writing an individual seminar paper (undergraduates will write two smaller papers).

A 2-page memo is due at the beginning of each class. 10 (9 for undergraduates) out of 13 passing memos will guarantee an A for 30% of the final grade (fewer passes make this grade decline sharply: B for 9, C for 8, etc.). Your class presentations will count for another 20%, the final seminar paper (15-20 pp.) for 35% (15% and 20% respectively for two undergraduate papers), and attendance and participation for 15%. Graduate seminar papers are due Dec. 13 (submitting a draft by Nov. 27 is strongly encouraged); missed memos **cannot** be made up.

Required books must be purchased individually by students (there are four, see below). See Blackboard for other materials as they are posted (use only these assigned editions, please). Those interested in doing additional reading in particular research areas should consult me for recommendations. Graduate students will generate an informal paper proposal over email by October 17 at the latest. Any topic inspired by these readings is fine, but you must get instructor approval before proceeding.

A Note on Plagiarism

Even graduate students run into problems with plagiarism, especially in the internet era. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense; it is grounds for automatic course failure and can be grounds for dismissal from the university. **Cite: never pass off someone else's work as your own.** For tips on how to properly use your sources, and for answers to questions about plagiarism see <http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page342054>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

August 27

- Introduction
- Müller, "Real Citizens"
- Frank, "Populism Isn't The Problem"

September 3—LABOR DAY (no class)

September 10

- Thucydides, “Pericles’ Funeral Oration” and “The Plague”
- Plato, *Protagoras* excerpt
- Plato, *Republic*, Book I, Book VII excerpt (Allegory of the Cave) and Book VIII
- Polybius, *The Rise of the Roman Empire*, 302-318
- **MEMO 1 DUE**

September 17

- Aristotle, *Politics*, Book I, Book II chs. 1-5, Book III chs. 1-12, Book IV chs. 1-11
- **MEMO 2 DUE (undergraduate paper 1 assigned, due October 17; optional draft due by October 5)**

September 24

- Arendt, *On Violence* excerpt
- Kalyvas, “Constituent Power”
- Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy* excerpts
- Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws* excerpt
- Constant, “On Ancient and Modern Liberty”
- **MEMO 3 DUE**

October 1

- Declaration of Independence
- *The Constitution of the United States* (preamble required, remainder recommended only)
- Publius, *The Federalist* 9, 10, 47, 48, 49, 51, 78
- Spero and Harris, *The Black Worker* excerpts
- Fisher, *Constitutional Dialogues*, ch. 7 and Conclusion
- **MEMO 4 DUE**

October 8

- Sieyes, “What Is the Third Estate?” excerpt
- Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* excerpts
- Paine, *The Rights of Man* excerpts
- More, *Village Politics*
- Thompson and Wheeler, *An Appeal of One Half the Human Race* excerpts
- **MEMO 5 DUE**

October 15

- Marx, “On the Jewish Question,” part I
- Marx, “Wage Labor and Capital”
- Marx, “Critique of the Gotha Program”
- Luxemburg, “Social Democracy and Parliamentarism”
- Luxemburg, “Theses on the Tasks of International Social-Democracy”
- **MEMO 6 DUE**

October 22

- Schmitt, *The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy* (MIT Press, purchase)
- **MEMO 7 DUE**

October 29

- Pitkin, “Representation”
- Pitkin, “Representation and Democracy: Uneasy Alliance”
- Frank, “Populism and Praxis”
- Cohen, *The Boundaries of Blackness* excerpt
- **MEMO 8 DUE (undergraduate paper 2 assigned, due December 7; optional draft due by November 28)**

November 5

- Shapiro et al., *The Democracy Sourcebook* Part I
- **MEMO 9 DUE**

November 12

- Achen and Bartels, *Democracy for Realists* (Princeton University Press 2017, purchase)
- **MEMO 10 DUE**

November 19

- Winters, *Oligarchy* (Cambridge University Press, purchase)
- **MEMO 11 DUE**

November 26

- Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom* excerpt
- Hayek, “Equality, Value, and Merit”
- Becker, “The Economic Way of Looking at Life”
- Brown, *Undoing the Demos* excerpts
- **MEMO 12 DUE**

December 3

- Ranci re, *Disagreement* (University of Minnesota Press, purchase)
- **MEMO 13 DUE**

Papers due by 4 p.m., Thursday, December 13 (hard copy in my office or mailbox, please)

THERE IS NO FINAL EXAMINATION FOR THIS COURSE

***Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must inform the instructor and be registered with the Disability Resource Center. Please see <http://drc.uic.edu> or contact the DRC at 312 413-2183 (voice) or 312 413-7781 (FAX).