

## Democratic Theory

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**Course Description:** Democracy has recently come under siege. The democratic production of Trump in the United States, Brexit, Duterte in the Philippines, Orbán in Hungary, and Erdoğan in Turkey are cited as mounting evidence of the inadequacy of democracy. This course commences by considering variants of democratic skepticism throughout history. Then, in Unit 2, the course considers theoretical justifications of democracy. Even if democracy is justifiable, how ought it be designed? Unit 3 analyzes different ways of constructing democracy. Finally, Unit 4 hands the reins over to the class to decide what final topics to cover.

### Assignments:

- Participation: 20%
- Midterm:   w  %                      Date: **TBA**
- Paper 1:   x  %                      Due Date: **TBA**
- Paper 2:   y  %                      Due Date: **TBA**
- Final:   z  %                      Date: **TBA**
- \*\*Students decide how (voting, deliberating, bargaining, etc.) to allocate the remaining 80% of the grade. It is stipulated that: (1) w, x, y, and z must *each* be equal to or greater than 5, and, (2) w, x, y, and z must sum to 80.

### Schedule:

Day 1            Introduction

- Robert Goodin and Kai Spiekermann, *An Epistemic Theory of Democracy*, Epilogue

#### *Unit 1: Democratic Skepticism*

Day 2            Ancient Democratic Skepticism, Part 1

- Aristotle, *The Politics*, selections from Bks 1, 4-5

Day 3            Ancient Democratic Skepticism, Part 2

- Plato, *Republic*, 471c-502c, 514a-527d, 543a-576b

Day 4            Modern Democratic Skepticism, Part 1

- Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, Bks 1-3

Day 5            Modern Democratic Skepticism, Part 2

- Nietzsche, *Human, All Too Human*, selections from *Human, All Too Human* and *On the Genealogy of Morals*

Day 6            Contemporary Democratic Skepticism, Part 1

- Nancy MacLean, *Democracy in Chains*, Prologue, Chapters 1, 11-12

Day 7            Contemporary Democratic Skepticism, Part 2

- Bryan Caplan, *The Myth of the Rational Voter: Why Democracies Choose Bad Policies*, Introduction and Chapter 7

Day 8            Contemporary Democratic Skepticism, Part 3

- Day 9
  - Jason Brennan, *Against Democracy*, Chapter 7
 Contemporary Democratic Skepticism, Part 4
  - Christopher Achen and Larry Bartels, *Democracy for Realists: Why Elections Do Not Produce Responsive Government*, Selections from Chapters 1-3

*Unit 2: Justifications of Democracy*

- Day 10 What Justifies Democracy?
  - Niko Kolodny, “Rule Over None I: What Justifies Democracy?”
- Day 11 Types of Justification: Instrumental vs. Non-instrumental
  - Elizabeth Anderson, “Democracy: Instrumental Vs. Non-Instrumental Value”
- Day 12 Non-instrumental, Part 1
  - Thomas Christiano, *The Constitution of Equality: Democratic Authority and Its Limits*, Chapter 6
- Day 13 Non-instrumental, Part 2
  - Fabienne Peter, “Pure Epistemic Proceduralism”
- Day 14 Partially Instrumental
  - David Estlund, *Democratic Authority*, Chapter 6
- Day 15 Instrumental, Part 1
  - Hélène Landemore, *Democratic Reason: Politics, Collective Intelligence, and the Rule of the Many*, Chapter 6
- Day 16 Instrumental, Part 2
  - Hélène Landemore, *Open Democracy: Reinventing Popular Rule for the Twenty-First Century*, Selections from Chapter 6 and Chapter 8

Day 17 **MIDTERM**

*Unit 3: Models of Democracy*

- Day 18 Representative Democracy
  - Bernard Manin, *The Principles of Representative Government*, Selections from Chapter 2 and Chapter 6
- Day 19 Plebiscitary Democracy
  - Jeffrey Green, *The Eyes of the People: Democracy in an Age of Spectatorship*, Selections from Chapter 2 and Chapter 4
- Day 20 Pluralist Democracy
  - Robert Dahl, *A Preface to Democratic Theory*, Chapter 5 and Afterword
- Day 21 Participatory Democracy
  - Carole Pateman, “Participatory Democracy Revisited”
- Day 22 Deliberative Democracy
  - Amy Gutmann and Dennis Thompson, *Why Deliberative Democracy?*, Chapter 1
- Day 23 Inclusive Democracy
  - Iris Marion Young, *Inclusion and Democracy*, Chapter 1
- Day 24 Agonistic Democracy

- Bonnie Honig, “Between Decision and Deliberation: Political Paradox in Democratic Theory”
- Day 25      Public Choice Democracy
- James Buchanan and Gordon Tullock, *The Calculus of Consent*, Selections from Chapters 1-2, 7, and 9

*Unit 4: Students’ Choice*

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|--------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Day 26 | Students’ Choice | (Voting?)               |
| Day 27 | Students’ Choice | (Political Ignorance?)  |
| Day 28 | Students’ Choice | (Wisdom of the Crowds?) |
| Day 29 | Students’ Choice | (Populism?)             |
| Day 30 | Review for Final |                         |