

**Carleton University**  
**Department of Political Science**  
<https://carleton.ca/polisci/>

**Winter 2025**

PSCI 1100B Democracy in Theory and Practice  
Lecture Tuesdays 14:35-16:25  
For location see Carleton Central

Professor: Dr. Andrea Chandler  
Office: Loeb D694  
Phone: 613-520-2600 ext 1418  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:00-2:00 p.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1:15-3:15 p.m. or by appointment (email the professor)  
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Course Description:

This course will introduce students to political science by exploring one of its major themes. We will examine selected, influential ideas and debates about democracy: what it is, how it works, and whether there is room for improvement in twenty-first century democracy. Democracy will be contrasted with authoritarianism, and the course will examine some of the key critiques of liberal democracy.

The goals of the course include:

- to build an understanding of the ideas, institutions and values associated with democracy,
- to develop students' abilities to listen, converse, and comprehend debates about democracy, insofar as dialogue and deliberation are essential parts of democracy,
- to develop students' abilities to write original and analytical prose, based on a full and thorough reading of key texts,
- to apply ideas about democracy to contemporary issues and challenges in states with liberal-democratic regimes,
- and to develop students' abilities to identify accurate, good-quality source material when gathering information about the way that democracies function in today's world.

In keeping with these objectives, students are expected to attend all lectures and to complete the required reading in advance of the class for which it is assigned. Class time includes a weekly lecture plus attendance in a discussion group. Students are expected to participate actively in discussion groups, led by a teaching assistant (TA), in order to contribute to active group learning and to practice speaking skills.

The use of artificial intelligence/ChatGPT for work in this course is not permitted. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings themselves, in their entirety, and to write in their own words. Written work that does not demonstrate a full understanding of required reading, which shows insufficient attention to detail or which does not cite sources appropriately, will receive a failing mark.

Course format: In-person

Learning Outcomes:

Students who complete this course successfully should be able to:

- show knowledge of basic concepts and definitions of democracy,
- demonstrate that they can effectively read readings in their entirety in order to demonstrate analytical understanding of the work, including an ability to follow how the author's argument unfolds and how the author uses reason and/or evidence to support their argument.
- compare and contrast differing views on democracy,
- discuss, in a nuanced way, examples of how ideas about democracy are reflected and communicated in contemporary political life,
- write succinct, clear and original prose developing these themes, informed by careful reading and research.

Textbook: Two textbooks have been ordered for purchase for the Carleton University Bookstore. Additional required readings will be available online through Brightspace: Choose Tools – ARES reserves.

Robert A. Dahl, *On Democracy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (with Ian Shapiro). New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2015. pbk ISBN 978-0-300-19446-3. Price: \$26.00

Timothy Snyder, *On Tyranny*, Graphic edition, illustrated by Nora Krug. New York: Ten Speed Press/Random House, 2021. Price: \$22.99

Course Requirements: The table below illustrates how the final grade will be calculated. A description of each component follows the table.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Attendance and participation in discussion groups   | 10% |
| Online test January 21  | 5%  |
| In-class Test February 11   | 25% |
| In-class Test March 25  | 30% |
| Take-home final examination, to be submitted to Brightspace <b>on or before April 26 at 5:00 p.m.</b> | 30% |

**Attendance and participation: 10%** Beginning with the second class on January 14, students are expected to attend the discussion group, led by a teaching assistant (TA), in which they have registered. Students should arrive prepared to discuss readings on the day for which they are assigned, and will be expected to participate actively in class activities. Participation is defined as contributing to the class through respectful listening, informed speaking, working in class on writing exercises as directed by the TA, and contributing feedback to your peers. Of this component of the course grade, 50% will be based on attendance and 50% on constructive participation in class discussions.

**Online test, January 21: 5%** The test is to be completed on Brightspace between 9:00 a.m. on January 21 and 9:00 a.m. on January 22. The test will ask students questions about the course outline, so as to ensure that students are proactive early in the term in understanding

expectations for the course. Students will have one hour to write the test; do not open the test until you are prepared to complete and submit it. As with in-person tests, students are expected to write the test on their own without sharing their answers with their fellow students. University examination rules can be found online at <https://carleton.ca/ses/examination-regulations/>

**In-class Test, February 11: 25%**. The test will consist of twenty-five multiple-choice questions which will require students to apply their understanding of concepts, rather than simply memorize information. Students will be responsible for all course material (lectures, readings, and posted questions) assigned up to and including February 4. The test will be closed-book and written in pencil: students must put away all books, papers and devices during the test.

**In-class Test, March 25: 30%** to be written in person, in class on March 25. The test will start promptly at 2:35 and end at 4:20. Students will be expected to demonstrate understanding of all course material, including all assigned readings, course lectures, work completed in discussion groups, and discussion questions posted on Brightspace. Clear writing, in complete sentences, is expected on the test. The test will be closed-book and written in pen/pencil: students must put away all books, papers and devices during the test.

**Take-home examination: 30%** The final exam will be an essay question that will ask students to compare, analyze and reflect upon particular assigned readings, in light of a contemporary political problem of democracy. The exam question(s) will be posted to Brightspace on or before April 8. Arguments made should be backed up with analytical reasoning and consideration of appropriate evidence (from peer-reviewed sources or primary sources). Assignments will be evaluated according to their originality, cohesion, depth of understanding of required course material, and precision of communication. Students will be required to use references appropriately in order to acknowledge sources consulted and to provide page numbers to support the arguments made about the works. Expected length: 8 pages, typed, double-spaced in 12-point font. The use of artificial intelligence/ChatGPT for this assignment is not permitted. See additional information, “Statement on Written Work” below. **The dropbox for online submission will close at 5 p.m. on April 26.**

### **STATEMENT ON WRITTEN WORK**

*All written assignments should answer a specific question and should analyze, rather than describe, the issues and events discussed. Papers should use footnotes, endnotes or parenthetical references as appropriate to acknowledge sources, and provide a complete bibliography. Clear and precise writing is an important part of scientific communication, so grammar and spelling will be considered in the evaluation of written work. Full and consistent references are expected; the professor recommends the MLA system. References should be complete and accurate, inserted into the text of your paper as appropriate whenever you have referred to someone else’s idea, argument, or research. Any time you quote directly from a source, the citation should be indicated in quotation marks and footnoted. Quotations from secondary sources are to be avoided, as are quotations of more than fifty words in length from any one source. \*\*\* If you are unsure about how to cite sources, please see the professor for advice. Assignments that simply assemble or reiterate information, or which lack appropriate references, will not be considered satisfactory.*

## **CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PROFESSOR**

*The professor holds scheduled office hours that are specifically dedicated to answering questions from students. Students are encouraged to come to these office hours (or to contact the professor for a Zoom link). When students have questions related to the course material, the content of assignments, and research strategies, it is useful to discuss those questions in person with the professor. Do not hesitate to ask for help in finding research sources, or to ask further questions about material covered in course lectures. If you miss a lecture, please feel welcome to come to office hours to discuss the missed work. Students may also contact the professor to request an appointment for a meeting time outside of scheduled office hours. Students can use e-mail to contact the professor; e-mail communication works best for brief exchanges of factual information. The instructor normally replies to e-mail messages within 2 days, Monday through Friday. Students are encouraged to check Brightspace before class for possible announcements, in case of weather events or other unforeseen circumstances that impact the class.*

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### Schedule of Course Topics:

#### THE ORIGINS OF DEMOCRACY

##### **1. Introduction (January 7)**

**Required Reading:** This course outline (pages 1-10). Students will be tested on their knowledge of the course outline on January 21.

##### **2. Democracy as an Idea; how democracy evolved (January 14)**

Required reading:

Dahl, chapters 1 and 2.  
Snyder, Lessons 6-7.

##### **3. Liberal Democracy; Suffrage (January 21)**

Required reading:

Dahl, chapters 3-5.  
Snyder, Lesson 3.

#### COMPONENTS OF DEMOCRACY

##### **4. Citizenship and the State; Rule of Law (January 28)**

Required reading:

Dahl, chapter 7.  
Snyder, Lessons 1, 2, 4 and 5, 7 and 8.

**5. Critiques of Liberal Democracy I: Marxism, Feminism (February 4)**

Required reading:

Dahl, chapter 6.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "The Communist Manifesto," in Marx, Karl, et al. *The Communist Manifesto*. Yale University Press, 2012, <https://doi.org/10.12987/9780300163209>. (Ebook Central Academic Complete)

Mary Wollstonecraft, chapter 9 of *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. New York: Oxford World's Classics, 2008.

**6. In-class Test (February 11)**

BUILDING AND RE-BUILDING DEMOCRACIES

**7. Restitution, Reconciliation, Reflection (February 25)**

Required reading:

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*, 2015. "Introduction," pp. 1-22. On Library Reserve. See Brightspace – ARES.

Ta-Nehisi Coates, "The Case for Reparations," *Atlantic Monthly*, 13/315, June 2014, pp. 54-71. On Library Reserve. See Brightspace – ARES.

Martha Nussbaum, "The Capabilities of People with Cognitive Disabilities." *Metaphilosophy*, vol. 40, no. 3-4, July 2009, pp. 331-351.

**8. Building Democracy: First Steps (March 4)**

Required reading:

Dahl, chapters 10-11.

Snyder, lessons 12 and 13.

**9. Sustaining Democracy; Protest and Civil Disobedience (March 11)**

Required reading:

Dahl, chapter 8, 12.

Snyder, Lessons 6, 9, 10, 11 and 14.

CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRACY

**10. Globalization and Capitalism (March 18)**

Required reading:

Dahl, chapter 13-14.

Cass Sunstein, *On Freedom*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2019. Chapter 2, "Navigability."

**11. In-Class Test March 25**

## **12. Critiques of Liberal Democracy II: Populism and Nationalism; Technology and Democracy (April 1)**

### Required reading

Dahl, chapter 10.

Snyder, Lessons 17, 18 and 19.

Asha Rangappa and Jennifer Mercicaca, "The Ancient Greeks' Guide to Propaganda and Disinformation," *Zocalo Public Square*, 7 June 2020, <https://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/2020/06/07/disinformation-propaganda-rhetoric-twitter-president-trump-ancient-greek-philosophers/ideas/essay/>

## **13. Inclusion, Exclusion and Equality (April 8)**

### Required reading:

Dahl, chapters 15-17.

Taylor, Charles. "The Dynamics of Democratic Exclusion." *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 9 no. 4, 1998, p. 143-156.

Snyder, Lesson 20 and Epilogue.

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## Political Science Course Outline

### Appendix

#### REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

##### **Student Mental Health**

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

##### **Emergency Resources (on and off campus):**

<https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

##### **Carleton Resources:**

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

<https://carleton.ca/wellness/>

Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>

Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>

Academic Advising Centre (AAC):

<https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>

Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS):

<https://carleton.ca/csas/>

Equity & Inclusivity Communities:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/>

##### **Off Campus Resources:**

Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or  
TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>

Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-  
0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>

Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389,

<https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>

ood2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>

The Walk-In Counselling Clinic:

<https://walkincounselling.com>

##### **Academic consideration for medical or other**

**extenuating circumstances:** Students must contact the instructor(s) of their absence or inability to complete the academic deliverable within the predetermined timeframe due to medical or other extenuating circumstances. For a range of medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may use the online self-declaration form and where appropriate, the use of medical documentation. This policy regards the accommodation of extenuating

circumstances for both short-term and long-term periods and extends to all students enrolled at Carleton University. Students should also consult the [Course Outline Information on Academic Accommodations](#) for more information. Detailed information about the procedure for requesting academic consideration can be found [here](#).

**Pregnancy:** Contact your Instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, please contact Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC) at [equity@carleton.ca](mailto:equity@carleton.ca) or by calling (613) 520-5622 to speak to an Equity Advisor.

**Religious obligation:** Contact your Instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

##### **Academic Accommodations for Students with**

**Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, please request your accommodations for this course through the [Ventus Student Portal](#) at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the [University Academic Calendars](#). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally scheduled exam (if applicable).

**Survivors of Sexual Violence:** As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

**Accommodation for Student Activities:** Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

#### PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply within **three working days** to the Registrar's Office for permission to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully supported by the appropriate documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered. [See Undergraduate Calendar, Article 4.3](#)

#### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s). Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit. If group or collaborative work is expected or allowed, provide a clear and specific description of how and to what extent you consider collaboration to be acceptable or appropriate, especially in the completion of written assignments.

#### WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last day to withdraw from full fall term and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment is September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The last day for a fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or the winter portion of two-term courses is January 31, 2025. The last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall courses is November 15, 2024. The last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses is March 15, 2025.

**WDN:** For students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term the term WDN will be a permanent notation that appears on their official transcript.

#### OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Fall courses: December 9-21, 2024. Winter and Fall/Winter courses: April 11-26, 2025 (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)

For more information on the important dates and deadlines of the academic year, consult the [Carleton 2024-2025 Calendar](#).

#### GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is described in the Undergraduate Calendar section [5.4](#).

#### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

#### PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as *“presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.”* This can include:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in *“substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.”*

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a



piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

RESOURCES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Department of Political Science (2777)<br>Loeb        | B640                  |
| Registrar's Office (3500)                             | 300 Tory              |
| Centre for Student Academic Success (3822)<br>Library | 4 <sup>th</sup> floor |
| Academic Advising Centre (7850)                       | 302 Tory              |
| Paul Menton Centre (6608)<br>Nideyinàn                | 501                   |
| Career Services (6611)                                | 401 Tory              |