

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

Late Summer 2024

PCSI 1100 A
Democracy in Theory and Practice
Tuesday & Thursday 6:05 – 8:55
Online Course

Instructor: Said Yaqub Ibrahim
Office: Online
Office Hours: by appointment
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Course Description

This course introduces students to democracy as a key concept and topic of political science. The course helps students learn about basics of political science and various political regimes including democracy and authoritarianism. This course contains theoretical, historical, critical, and case-specific issues that help students learn democracy as a key political science topic. The course will start with theories of political science and democracy, continue with historical and critical perspectives, and conclude with case studies from both the global north and the global south. The course is taught online every Tuesday and Thursday via zoom. The zoom link is available on the course's Brightspace page.

Textbooks

Dahl, Robert A. 2015. *On Democracy*. 2nd edition (with Ian Shapiro). New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. [Available online, MacOdrum Library.](#)

Grugel, Jean and Matthew Louis Bishop. 2014. *Democratization: A Critical Introduction*. 2nd edition. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. [Available online, MacOdrum Library.](#)

Course Evaluation

Course evaluation includes three assignments and a final exam and will be calculated on the following basis:

A. Reaction paper (15%): Due July 11

Students should write a 2-3 pages paper (double-spaced in 12-point font – including bibliography, excluding the cover page) to address the following question: **What is democracy?** The paper should be based on assigned readings and course discussions – detailed instruction will be posted on Brightspace in due course.

B. Term Paper (30%): Due August 13

Students should write a mini-research paper on democracy in a specific country. You should select a country where you want to examine democracy/democratization. You have to review 6 to 8 scholarly sources to write a well-organized mini-research paper that should not exceed 8-10 pages (double-spaced in 12-point font) – detailed instruction will be provided in due course.

C. Group Discussion (20%)

Group discussion is a critical component of this course. Discussions will be led by instructor and TA. Students must attend all group discussions and actively participate in breakout room discussions and reporting the conclusion(s). The format and topics of group discussion will be provided at the end of each lecture.

D. Final Exam (35%)

Open book online examination with 3 hours (180 minutes) fixed duration. Students are required to answer two essay questions on topics relevant to the course material. The final exam will be scheduled during the regular examination period. A detailed instruction on the format and requirements of the exam will be provided in the last class.

E. Citation

Assignments must follow standard citation formats including MLA, APA, and Chicago Manual of Style. For each assignment select one citation format and use it consistently throughout the paper.

F. Submission Policy

All assignments should be submitted electronically in Brightspace. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Late submissions will be penalized 3 percent per 24 hours. If you need an extension for an assignment, contact the instructor prior to the due date.

Course Summary

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Group Discussion</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
	Part 1: Definition of Democracy		
<i>July. 2</i>	Course Introduction	<i>No Discussion</i>	
<i>July. 4</i>	What is democracy?	Characteristics of Democracy	
<i>July. 9</i>	Why democracy?	Causes of Democracy	
	Part 2: Process of Democracy		
<i>July. 11</i>	Paths to democracy & Democratization	Democratization	Reaction Paper Due
<i>July. 16</i>	Democratization and the State	The Role of State	
<i>July. 18</i>	Democracy: context, conditions, and requirements	Context	
<i>July. 23</i>	Democracy: opportunities and challenges	<i>Challenges</i>	
<i>July. 25</i>	Distribution and democracy: contexts of capitalism, socialism, and postcolonialism	<i>Distribution</i>	
	Part 3 Case Studies		
<i>July. 30</i>	Democratization Journey: United States	United States	
<i>August. 1</i>	Democratization journey: Canada	Canada	
<i>June. 6</i>	Democratization journey: Global South	Global South	
<i>June. 8</i>	Threats to Democracy	Populism	
<i>August.13</i>	Course Overview and Final Exam Instruction	<i>No Discussion</i>	Term Paper Due

Course Schedule

Lecture 1: Introduction to Course

No required reading

Lecture 2: What is democracy?

Reading:

Dahl, 2015, chapters 1-4.

Schmitter, Philippe C. and Terry Lynn Karl. 1991. "What Democracy is... and is not." *Journal of Democracy* 2(3): 75-88 (available online).

Lecture 3: Why democracy?

Reading:

Dahl, 2015, chapters 5-7 & chapter 16.

Lecture 4: Paths to democracy

Reading:

Grugel and Bishop, 2014, chapters 1 & 2.

Huntington, Samuel P. 1991. "Democracy's Third Wave." *Journal of Democracy* 2(2): 12-34.

Lecture 5: Democratization and the State

Reading:

Grugel and Bishop, 2014, chapters 3 & 4.

Carothers, Thomas. 2002. "The End of the Transition Paradigm." *Journal of Democracy* 13(2):5-21. (available online)

Lecture 6: Democracy: context, conditions, and requirements

Reading:

Dahl, 2015, chapters 8-11.

Lecture 7: Democracy: opportunities and challenges

Reading:

Dahl, 2015, chapter 12

Grugel and Bishop, 2014, chapter 5

Fareed Zakaria. 1997. "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy." *Foreign Affairs* November/December: 22-43

Lecture 8: Distribution and democracy: contexts of capitalism, socialism, and postcolonialism

Reading:

Dahl, 2015, chapters 13-14 & 17

Lecture 9: Democratization journey (United States)

Reading

Dahl, 2015, chapters 15-16

Grugel and Bishop, 2014, conclusion

Lecture 10: Democratization journey (Canada)

Reading

Dahl, 2015, chapters 15-16

Grugel and Bishop, 2014, conclusion

Lecture 11: Democratization journey (Global South)

Reading:

Della Porta, Donatella. 2005. "Globalizations and Democracy." *Democratization* 12(5): 668-685.

O'Donnell, Guillermo, 2007. "The Perpetual Crises of Democracy." *Journal of Democracy* 18(1): 5-11.

Patrick Heller, 2022, "Democracy in the Global South." *Annu. Rev. Sociol.*, 48:463–84.

Lecture 12: Threats to Democracy

Reading

Thomas Carothers, 'The End of the Transition Paradigm.' *Journal of Democracy* 13: 2002, 5-21.

Rola el-Husseini, "Is gender the barrier to democracy? Women, Islamism, and the 'Arab spring'," *Contemporary Islam* 10, 2016, 53–66.

William Galston, 'The Populist Challenge to Liberal Democracy,' *Journal of Democracy* 2/9 (2018), 5-19.

Lecture 13: Course Overview and Exam Instruction

No Reading

Appendix

Covid-19 Pandemic Measures

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

Masks: Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

Vaccines: While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.

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/>

- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Academic Accommodations

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 for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** 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*). 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*).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

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:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, 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 which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct 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 may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or Brightspace. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and Brightspace accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can

benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/> or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.