

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

Winter 2024

PSCI 1100B Democracy in Theory and Practice
 Winter term 2024
 Lecture Mondays 9:35-11:25
 For location see Carleton Central

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Hours: Mondays, 1:15-3:15 p.m., Tuesdays 1:15-3:15 p.m. or by appointment
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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 ideas and debates about democracy: what it is, how it works, and whether there is room for improvement. Democracy has many critics – most of whom focus on the practical difficulties of governing by popular consent -- but it remains one of the most enduring and respected political ideas that we have. Studying the concept of democracy allows us to bridge the historical past with contemporary politics, and to examine the many complexities facing states who make democratic commitments to their citizens. Students who complete this course successfully should be able to:

- show knowledge of basic concepts, and definitions of democracy,
- use critical reading effectively in order to demonstrate analytical understanding of key texts appropriate to first-year study,
- discuss, in a nuanced way, examples of how ideas about democracy are reflected and communicated in contemporary political life,
- write succinct and clear prose developing sound arguments on these themes, informed by careful reading and research.

The course is organized in order to meet 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 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. Students are encouraged to keep up with current events, in order to appreciate how controversies over democracy are revealed in day-to-day political life.

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*, 2nd edition (with Ian Shapiro). New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2015. pbk ISBN 978-0-300-19446-3.

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

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 midterm test (one hour), to be completed on Brightspace between 10:30 a.m. on February 5 and 9:30 a.m. on February 12	15%
Written assignment 1 (Reconciliation and Restitution)	15%, due online at Brightspace on or before March 4
Written assignment 2	25%, due online at Brightspace on or before April 1
Final examination (three hour time limit)	35%, to be scheduled during the formal exam period of April 13-25

Attendance and participation: 10% Beginning with the second class on January 15, students are expected to attend the discussion group, led by a teaching assistant (TA), in which they have registered. Please ensure that your name is on the attendance list for each class you attend. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions, and to demonstrate an understanding of the readings on the day for which they are assigned. Students should arrive in class fully prepared to discuss the questions posted in advance on Brightspace. Participation is defined as contributing to the class through respectful listening, informed speaking, and on occasion interaction in small groups. Of this component of the course grade, 50% will be based on attendance and 50% on constructive participation in class discussions.

Online midterm test, 15%. The goal of this early test will be to measure students' comprehension of basic concepts, and their ability to apply those concepts to democratic situations. The test is to be completed on Brightspace between 10:30 a.m. on February 5 and 9:30 a.m. on February 12. The test will consist of twenty multiple-choice questions, and will cover course material (lectures, readings, discussions) up to and including Week 4. Students will have one hour to write the test; do not open the test until you are prepared to complete and submit it. Questions will be based on course material, including lectures, readings, and study question material posted online. Students will be responsible for accessing a computer to write the quiz on their own time and within the specified time range. Therefore, by definition it is an open book test; however, it is strongly recommended that students study for the quiz and write it without referring to notes. The questions will require the use of reasoning, not simply the memorization of information. Students are expected to write the test on their own, on the honour system, without sharing their answers with their fellow students. University examination rules can be found online at <https://carleton.ca/ses/examination-regulations/> Students who miss test deadlines for extraordinary reasons beyond their control are advised to contact the professor. University deadlines for completing term work will apply.

Written assignment 1, 15% (Reconciliation and Restitution), Due March 4. All students are expected to be in class on February 26 for the lecture on this important topic. You will be asked to complete a short assignment (approximately 500 words) of your reflections of the material that we cover on this topic (including the assigned reading). The precise question for the assignment will be posted to Brightspace and students will submit their assignment online.

Written assignment 2: 25% This is a formative assignment, meaning it is expected to demonstrate understanding and reflection of course material, including assigned reading. Topics for the assignment will ask students to compare, analyze and reflect upon particular assigned readings, in light of a contemporary political problem of democracy. Instructions for the assignment will be posted to Brightspace early in the term. The assignment should demonstrate thoughtful, original reflection on key texts assigned for the course. 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. Expected length: 8 pages, typed, double-spaced in 12-point font. See additional information, “Statement on Written Work,” and “Late Papers” below.

Final examination: 35%, to be scheduled to be written in person during the formal exam period of April 13-25. Students will be expected to demonstrate understanding of all course material, including all assigned readings, course lectures, discussion groups, and discussion questions posted on Brightspace. Clear writing, in complete sentences, is expected on the final examination.

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 use footnotes or endnotes, please see the professor for advice. Assignments that simply assemble or reiterate information, or which lack appropriate references, will not be considered satisfactory.*

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are expected to be submitted on or before the deadline.. When assignments are submitted on time, it facilitates prompt marking which benefits your fellow students. Extensions for written assignments will be considered by the professor for exceptional reasons. The university schedule establishes a final deadline of April 10 for all assignments.

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 phone during these times, if that is more convenient). 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 make 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.

Schedule of Course Topics:

THE ORIGINS OF DEMOCRACY

1. Introduction (January 8)

2. Democracy as an Idea; how democracy evolved (January 15)

Required reading:

Dahl, chapters 1 and 2.

Snyder, Lessons 6-7.

Asha Rangappa and Jennifer Merciaa, "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/>

3. Liberal Democracy; Suffrage (January 22)

Required reading:

Dahl, chapters 3-5.

Snyder, Lesson 3.

COMPONENTS OF DEMOCRACY

4. Citizenship and the State; Rule of Law (January 29)

Required reading:

Dahl, chapter 7.

Snyder, Lessons 1, 2, 4 and 5.

5. Ethnicity, Identity and the Nation (February 5)

Required reading:

Snyder, Lessons 7, 8.

6. Critiques of Liberal Democracy I: Marxism, Feminism (February 12)

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.

BUILDING AND RE-BUILDING DEMOCRACIES

7. Restitution, Reconciliation, Reflection (February 26)

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-Nahisi 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 (March 11)

Required reading:

Dahl, chapter 8, 12.

Snyder, Lessons 9, 10, 11 and 14.

CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRACY

10. Protest and Civil Disobedience (March 18)

Martin Luther King, Jr.. "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (1963) in King, Jr. *Why We Can't Wait*, New York: Signet Classics, 2000, pp. 64-84.

Henry David Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience," in Thoreau, *Walden and Civil Disobedience*, New York: Signet, 2012, pp. 275-297.

Snyder, Lesson 6.

11. Globalization and Capitalism (March 25)

Required reading:

Dahl, chapter 13-14.

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

12. Critiques of Liberal Democracy II: Populism and Nationalism (April 1)

Required reading

Dahl, chapter 10.

Snyder, Lessons 17, 18 and 19.

13. Inclusion, Exclusion and Equality 12 (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.

Appendix

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>

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:

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances: Please contact your instructor if you are experiencing circumstances that (a) are beyond your control, (b) have a significant impact your capacity to meet your academic obligations, and (c) could not have reasonably been prevented. Decisions on academic consideration are in your instructor's discretion; they will be guided by the course learning outcomes and the principle of good faith. Please see [here](#) for more details. For considerations relating to course work, your instructor may request that you complete the [Self-Declaration form](#). To apply for a deferral of your final exam, you must submit the Self-Declaration form to the Registrar's Office no later than three days after the scheduled examination or take-home due date.

Pregnancy accommodation: Please 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, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

Religious accommodation: Please 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](#).

Accommodations for students with disabilities: If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation, or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, reach out to your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, [click here](#).

Accommodation for student activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and to the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who engage in student activities at the national or international level. Please 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 information, please [click here](#).

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline.

Sexual Violence Policy

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated. 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: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Carleton's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) addresses academic integrity violations, including plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, misrepresentation, impersonation, withholding of records, obstruction/interference, disruption of instruction or examinations, improper access to and/or dissemination of information, or violation of test and examination rules. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's academic integrity rules.

Plagiarism

The Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include, but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, websites, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- Any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- Using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- Using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- Submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor in a particular course, any use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools to produce assessed content (e.g., text, code, equations, image, summary, video, etc.) is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

Procedures in Cases of Suspected Violations

Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy are serious offences which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. When an instructor suspects a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, the Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the assignment/exam in question or a final grade of "F" for the course. More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

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).

Submission and Return of Term Work

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline. The departmental office will not accept assignments submitted in hard copy.

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

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 University email accounts and Brightspace.

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. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, 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 our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/>.

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.