

PSCI 1001A
Great Political Questions
8:35 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. Wednesdays
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Short
Office: Loeb B646
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3-4pm or by appointment.
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- **Course description**

This course provides students with a broad overview of key aspects of democratic theory. It examines competing notions of what is meant by “democracy” from a variety of perspectives, both historical and contemporary. Such examination will uncover and explicate concepts such as freedom, autonomy, and equality, which are of signal importance to democratic theory as it is understood in the Western political tradition. The course will pursue these themes through a study of democracy as a series of partially overlapping and competing “models”, revealing the tradition of Western democracy to be both self-differentiating and self-relating.

- **Texts**

We will be using the following **required** texts in this course:

1. David Held, *Models of Democracy*, Third Edition (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press), 2006.
2. Philip Green (ed.), *Democracy* (New Jersey: Humanity Books), 1999.

These books may be purchased at Haven Books (43 Seneca Street, Ottawa)
Please note that there is ONE copy of each of these texts on reserve in MacOdrum Library.

- **Evaluation**

The course will include the following graded elements:

In-class Quiz (Sept. 24th)	Value (15%)
Short Expository Paper (Nov 19 th)	Value (30%)
Tutorial Participation and Attendance (Ongoing)	Value (15%)
Final Exam (to be scheduled during the formal exam period, Dec 4-20 th)	Value (40%)

As per early feedback guidelines, the In-Class quiz will this assignment will be returned by October 31st.

Factors that influence grading in this course, particularly written assignments, include spelling, grammar, properly formatted citations (this will be covered in class), and style. It is recommended that students consult an appropriate style guide such as Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*, or other equivalent guidebook. It is important that students **proofread** all written work before handing it in. Work that is not proofread will very likely suffer grade reductions compared to equivalent work that is free of typos and

obvious grammatical and spelling errors (spelling and grammar checkers on most computer programmes can help with this).

Detailed Assignment Breakdown

- **Examinations**

There will be two examinations in this class, a short quiz on September 24th, to be held in class and worth 15% of the final grade, and a formal examination to be held during the December exam period worth 40% of the final grade.

The in-class quiz will consist of short-answer and True/False questions on material covered in the previous week(s); the end-of-term exam will consist of short answer and essay questions covering material from the entire course.

The in-class quiz will take approximately 20 minutes of class time and will be handed back to students in class on October 1st. The final exam will not be handed back to students, but will be kept on file with the Department of Political Science.

- **Term Work**

Term work in the course will consist of one short essay (5-7 pages double-spaced) due on the 19th of November **in class** and worth 30% of your final grade. The essay should emphasize the exposition of a key idea or theme covered in class. I will distribute a list of suitable essay topics in early October. The paper will be graded and available for pick-up on the day of the final exam. If you are unable to pick the assignment up for any reason, you have the option of leaving a self-addressed, stamped envelope with me, and your essay will be mailed to you.

Please note that because this essay is due *in class*, handing it in at the Political Science drop box is **strongly discouraged**. The drop box is emptied **every weekday at 4 p.m.** and all items collected at that time are date-stamped with that day's date. Students who elect to use the drop box will be assessed a 3% late penalty **even if** they have handed the paper in by 4p.m. on the due date. Essays that are otherwise late will be assessed a penalty of 2% per day.

- **Other forms of evaluation**

Students are responsible for attending all lectures associated with the course and for attending a one-hour tutorial each week. You are responsible for all material covered in lecture, tutorial, and in the course readings.

Tutorial **attendance and participation** is worth 15% of your grade in this course. It is at the tutorial assistant's (TA's) discretion to determine if this criterion has been met. The TA is free to evaluate your participation in tutorial by means other than simple attendance, for example, through tutorial presentations or short writing assignments.

While there is no formal grade attached to lecture attendance, failure to attend lecture is a significant cause of lack of success in the course. Consistent lack of attendance and participation will make it very unlikely or even impossible for you to pass the course (see the section on Course Requirements at the end of this syllabus).

- **Other issues**

Occasional lateness in lecture and tutorial is often unavoidable; however, disruptive, and/or chronic lateness will not be tolerated in the class (or in tutorial) and repeat offenders will be asked to leave the session (while still being responsible for the material covered in it). If you are going to be unavoidably late on an ongoing basis to lecture or tutorial be sure to speak to either the course director or your TA *beforehand*.

The lecture will often include a **10 minute** break. The lecture will resume after 10 minutes and it is your responsibility to return promptly to class.

If you feel an assignment has been mis-graded or graded unfairly, please speak to the grader (usually your TA) about your grade and the reasons for your dissatisfaction *before* approaching the course director. My default position is that your TA is a competent judge of your academic work, unless proven otherwise; your TA and course director attempt to establish common grading practices across the course. Only if you are unsatisfied by your TA's response should you approach me; when doing so, please make sure that you provide me with a brief (preferably written) statement of what the problem is (why you felt your grade was unfair), and what your TA's response was (as you understand it).

Office hours are listed at the top of this syllabus. Please make use of them to discuss any academic or other problems you are having that might affect your progress in the course. I strongly encourage you to make use of office hours if you are having difficulty in the course rather than suffering in silence. In the overwhelming majority of cases, these difficulties can be sorted out and grades improved provided you ask for help. It is very common (and not something to be ashamed of) to experience difficulty with the transition to university.

- **Class Schedule**

Sept. 10th: Introduction to the course, overview of syllabus and basic course concepts.

Sept. 17th: Classical (Athenian) Democracy: Reading, "Models" Chapter 1

Sept. 24th: Origins of Liberal Democratic Government: Reading, "Models" Chapter 3 (pp. 56-78);
Green, Madison pp. 44-49
In Class Quiz on Classical Democracy

Oct. 1st: Liberalism and Representative Government as "developmental": Reading, "Models" Chapter 3
(pp. 79-95); Green, Mill pp.32-37 and pp. 50-56

Oct. 8th: Marxism and Direct Democracy: Reading, "Models" Chapter 4

Oct. 15th: Democratic Elitism and Technocracy: Reading, "Models" Chapter 5;
Green, Michels pp. 68-73; Recommended: Green, Weber pp. 74-82 and Schumpeter pp. 83-92

Oct. 22nd: Pluralism, Capitalism, and the State: Reading, "Models" Chapter 6;
Green, Dahl pp. 104-118 and Bachrach pp. 126-130; Recommended: Prewitt and Stone pp.
131-144

Oct. 29th: Democracy and the "Crisis" of Legitimacy: Reading, "Models" Chapter 7;
Green, Bowles and Gintis pp. 168-174; Recommended: Green, Friedman pp.146-152 and
Macpherson pp. 153-157

Nov. 5th: The Collapse of the Soviet Union and the “triumph” of Capitalist Democracy: Reading, “Models” Chapter 8; Fukuyama, “The End of History?” (On Reserve in Library)

Nov. 12th: Deliberative and “Strong” Democracy: For and Against: Reading “Models” Chapter 9; Green pp. 257-268 and Barber pp. 269-272

Nov. 19th: Democracy in an Age of Globalization: Reading “Models” Chapter 11
Essay Assignment Due In Class

Nov. 26th: Course Review/ Exam Review: No Assigned Reading

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (9500 University Drive) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your letter of accommodation, **no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 7, 2008**, for December examinations, and **March 6, 2009**, for April examinations.”

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 Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: “to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another.” The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor 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. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

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.

Course Requirements: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.

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 in the after-hours academic life 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, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.