

**PSCI 5302W**  
**Democratic Theories**  
**Tuesdays 2.35-5.25pm**  
**Please confirm location on Carleton Central**

Instructor : Prof. Lee MacLean  
Office: Loeb D686  
Phone: 520-2600 ext. 4129  
Office Hours: Monday 10:30 a.m-11:00 a.m.; Tues. 2-2:30 p.m.; Wed. 10:30 a.m-11:30 a.m  
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In this course, we examine the evolution of Western democratic theory and some of the key concepts that underlie it. We will examine varied philosophical evaluations of democracy (both justifications and critiques) and will consider how these are linked to conceptions of human nature. We will also be concerned with the relation between wisdom and consent, between liberty and equality, and between sovereignty and individual freedom.

The course will also trace the historically changing meanings of democracy. We will analyze the circumstances that foster or, alternatively, threaten the democratic success of modern representative democratic regimes and societies. We will conclude with a study of the conditions for democratic action described by Hannah Arendt in her book, The Human Condition.

Objectives of the Course:

One goal of the course is to try to understand original attempts by major thinkers to think through important and enduring democratic problems. A related objective is to give students an understanding of some key debates in Western democratic theory.

The course is also designed to help students learn the art of interpretation by practicing it. A related goal of the course is to teach the importance of careful reading. The course also aims to help students become clearer writers, to refine their skills of argumentation and to engage in critical thinking.

Note: The course will proceed by close textual and contextual study of primarily classical philosophical texts. Our approach will be theoretical.

**Required Texts (Available at Haven Books)**

\*\*A required package of readings.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau. On the Social Contract: With Geneva Manuscript and Political Economy. Trans. Judith Masters . Ed. Roger Masters  
Bedford Books, 1978.

Jean Bethke Elshtain. Democracy on Trial. Anansi Press, 1993.

Hannah Arendt. The Human Condition. Chicago, 1998.

Course Work:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Presentation on essay	10%
Essay (8-12 double-spaced pages <b>(due March 28<sup>th</sup>)</b> )	40%
Take-home exam (8-12 double-spaced pages) <b>(due April 7<sup>th</sup>)</b>	40%

A description of the criteria that will be used in marking both the essay and the take-home will be handed out. The criteria will include: clarity, precision, organization, coherent justification, focus, provision of adequate evidence and/or justification.

Notes on writing the essay: Since formulating research topics is a crucial part of the activity of scholarship, you are asked to formulate your own paper topic for the course essay. In order to formulate a thesis statement, try posing a 'thesis question,' the answer to which will be the thesis statement itself. Your paper should attempt to prove and support your thesis statement. The thesis statement and argument of the essay will likely evolve and change as you work. Therefore, to help ensure that all the sections of your paper are relevant to its main argument and help to develop and explain it, I would suggest to starting early and printing often.

Policy regarding late papers: A penalty of one quarter point per day will be imposed on all late papers not excused by a doctor's certificate. Unless you have documentation proving that serious unforeseen circumstances, such as illness or family affliction, have arisen, you can expect the penalty to be fairly and consistently applied. **Please note**, the departmental box cut off time is 4pm. Any assignments submitted after 4pm will be date stamped for the following weekday.

Class presentations on your essay: The class presentation is an opportunity to develop your work in progress on your essay topic through discussion with others. Feel free to discuss significant problems or puzzles you have not yet fully understood. The 10-15 minute presentations will be scheduled during the six classes from Feb. 3-March 17. We will schedule the dates for presentations on Tues. Jan. 20.

Take-home exam: the take-home exam topics will be handed out on Tues. March 31. The length is 8-12 double-spaced pages and it will be due April 7 and can be handed in to my in my office from 10-12 noon. It will entail writing on your choice between two essay questions. The questions will be designed to reward reflection upon and understanding of the course readings. The take-home will be graded on the basis of the same criteria as the essay.

Class Etiquette: Each person who speaks in class should be given the floor; talking or whispering to other students while someone else is speaking is destructive of the quality of class deliberation and will result in deductions from the participation grade.

Please also note the following:

- Assignments cannot be submitted to the department by fax .
- Essays placed in the drop box after 4 p.m. are date stamped the following day.
- It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses.
- All components of course work (attendance and participation, seminar summary and commentary, short essay and course essay) must be completed to receive a passing grade.

Tentative Schedule of Readings:

\*\*\*Numbers refer to readings in the course pack.

Week of:

Tues. Jan. 6	Introduction
Tues. Jan. 13	<b>The Changing Meaning of Democracy and Anti-Democrats, Ancient and Modern</b> 1) Norberto Bobbio, "Democracy and Dictatorship" pp. 133-166 from his <u>Democracy and Dictatorship</u> , trans. Peter Kennealy. (Univ. of Minnesota, 1989) 2) Aristotle, <u>The Politics</u> , Book 3, pp. 87-117, Carnes Lord trans. University of Chicago, Chicago, 1984. 3) Nietzsche, <u>Beyond Good and Evil</u> , Part V, sections 202-204, pp. 115-118, Walter Kaufmann trans. Vintage, New York 1966. 4) Thomas Hobbes, <u>On the Citizen</u> , Chapter 10, pp. 115-126 Richard Tuck and Michael Silverthorne, eds. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1998
Tues. Jan. 20	<b>The Case for Direct Self-Government</b> Rousseau, <u>On the Social Contract</u> , Books 1 and 2
Tues. Jan. 27	<u>On the Social Contract</u> , Books 1 and 2, cont'd and Books 3 and 4.
Tues. Feb. 3	<b>Democracy and Individual Liberty</b> Tocqueville, <u>Democracy in America</u> , Vol. 1, Part 2, Chapter 7, 5)"On The Omnipotence of The Majority in the United States and Its Effects,"Harvey C. Mansfield and Delba Winthrop, eds.

(Chicago, 2000).

6) Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty," from his Four Essays on Liberty (Oxford, 1969)

- Tues. Feb. 10      **Regarding the Practice of Democracy**  
Jean Bethke Elshtain, Democracy on Trial (Anansi Press, 1993)
- Feb. 16- Feb. 20      Reading Week
- Tues. Feb. 24      **Labour, Work and Democratic Action**  
Arendt, The Human Conditon, intro, prologue, chapter 1
- Tues. March 3      Arendt, The Human Conditon, chapter 2  
7) Susan Moller Okin, "Humanist Liberalism" from  
Nancy Rosenblum, ed., Liberalism and the Moral Life (Harvard, 1989)
- Tues. March 10      Arendt, The Human Conditon, chapters 3 and 4
- Tues. March 17      Arendt, The Human Conditon, chapters 4 and 5
- Tues. March 24      Essay due  
Arendt, The Human Conditon, chapter 6
- Tues. March 31      **Take-home exam topics will be handed out**  
Arendt, The Human Conditon, chapter 6 , cont'd.  
8) C.B. Macpherson, "Old and New Dimensions of Democracy,"  
from his The Real World of Democracy (Oxford, 1972)
- Tues. April 7      Take-home exam due. No classes on this day.

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### 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 (500 University Centre) 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 the instructor receives your letter of accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least 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](http://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 include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course. 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 only communicates with students via Connect accounts. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Connect 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](mailto:carletonpss@gmail.com), visit our website at [poliscisociety.com](http://poliscisociety.com), 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.