

Democratic Theory and Practice

Summer Term 2020

Time: Wednesday 4-5.30 PM

Instructor: Jun.-Prof. Chitrlekha Basu, PhD

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Office Hours: 1–3 PM, Wednesdays

Overview. In the 21st century, the status of Western liberal democracy appears under threat at home and abroad. While populist movements gain ground in Europe and North America, the rising economic and diplomatic clout of non-democratic regimes like China and Russia presents the world with seemingly successful alternatives. In this course, the questions we will return to time and again are: what is democracy? Why is democracy worth defending? And what institutions and social conditions are necessary for the realization of the democratic ideal? The lecture course will be divided into two parts. The first half of the course will provide students with an overview of the development of democratic thought, ranging from liberal democracy to more recent radical and deliberative alternatives. The second half of the course will consider if and how phenomena like multiculturalism, globalization and inequality present a challenge for the democratic ideal.

Prerequisites. A good foundational knowledge of general political science concepts, theories, and basic qualitative and quantitative methods is expected. Moreover, students should be able to understand and express themselves in English, as this will be the classroom language – though perfection is neither expected nor required. The final exam will also be in English.

Course Organization. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this course will be delivered online using the software Zoom. Each week, you will receive an invitation to participate in the lecture, which will take place at the scheduled time. To accommodate students who are unable to participate at the allotted time, recordings of each lecture will also be made available via ILIAS.

Learning Aids. To facilitate discussion and engagement with the course content, there will be an online forum with weekly discussion questions, which enrolled students will be able to access through ILIAS. Students are encouraged to post and engage with questions on this forum (anonymously, if you wish). Additionally, I will post frequent (optional) multiple-choice quizzes to help students evaluate their understanding of the material to date. I will also be available to meet with students online during my office hours (please make an appointment by email).

Assessment. Your grade in this class will be based on a written examination. The exam is scheduled for Tuesday, 21 July 2020, 9:00-10:00, Hörsaal H124, which is located in Gebäude 216 (HF-Gebäude), Gronewaldestr. 2. For the exam, students should be familiar with all topics and texts covered during the course, and will be required to answer several short essay questions. If alternative arrangements become necessary, students will be notified.

Required Readings. Most of the assigned readings can be accessed electronically either through

JSTOR or through the university library. All remaining course materials will be made available to enrolled students via ILIAS. Students will be expected to have completed all the assigned readings for the week before each session.

Course Schedule

Part I: The Democratic Ideal

15 April: The Value of Democracy

- Richard Arneson. 2004. 'Democracy is not intrinsically just', in Keith Dowding, Robert Goodin and Carole Pateman (eds.), *Justice and Democracy*, pp. 40-58.
- Elizabeth Anderson. 2009. 'Democracy: Instrumental vs. non-instrumental value', in Thomas Christiano and John Christman (eds.), *Contemporary Debates in Political Philosophy*, pp. 213-227.
- Laura Valentini. 2012. 'Justice, disagreement and democracy.' *British Journal of Political Science* 43: 177-199.

22 April: The Nature and Origins of Representative Government

- Bernard Manin. 1997. *The Principles of Representative Government*, Introduction and chs. 2-4.

29 April: Realist Theories of Democracy

- Joseph Schumpeter. 1953. *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*, chs. 21-22.
- Robert Dahl. 1956. *A Preface to Democratic Theory*, chs. 1-3 (skip the math).
- Adam Przeworski. 2003 [1999]. 'Minimalist conception of democracy: A defense', in Robert A. Dahl et al., *The Democracy Sourcebook*, pp. 12-18.

6 May: Rawlsian Liberalism and Democracy

- John Rawls. 2001. *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*, parts I, II and IV.
- Sheldon Wolin. 1996. 'The liberal/democratic divide: On Rawls's political liberalism.' *Political Theory* 24(1): 97-119.

13 May: Participatory & Deliberative Democracy

- Carole Pateman. 1976. *Participation and Democratic Theory*, chs. 1-3, 6.
- Joshua Cohen. 1997. 'Deliberation and democratic legitimacy', in James Bohman and William Rehg (eds.), *Deliberative Democracy: Essays on Reason and Politics*, pp. 67-92.
- David Plotke. 1997. 'Representation is democracy.' *Constellations* 4(1): 19-34.

20 May: The Populist Challenge

- Koen Abts and Stefan Rummens. 2007. 'Populism versus democracy.' *Political Studies* 55(2): 405-424.
- Cas Mudde and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser. 2012. *Populism in Europe and the Americas: Threat or Corrective for Democracy*, chs. 1 and 10.

- Chantal Mouffe. 2019. *For A Left Populism*, chs. 3-4.

Part II: Democracy in Practice

27 May: Democracy and the Market

- Charles Lindblom. 1982. 'The market as prison.' *Journal of Politics* 44(2): 324-336.
- Adam Przeworski and Michael Wallerstein. 1988. 'Structural dependence of the state on capital.' *American Political Science Review* 82(1): 11-29.
- Marcus Kurtz. 2004. 'The dilemmas of democracy in the open economy: Lessons from Latin America.' *World Politics* 56(2): 262-302.
- Francis Fukuyama. 2012. 'The future of history: Can liberal democracy survive the decline of the middle class?' *Foreign Affairs* 1: 53-61.

3 June: NO CLASS (Pfingstferien)

10 June: Democracy, Growth and Redistribution

- Carl H. Knutsen. 2012. 'Democracy and economic growth: A survey of arguments and results.' *International Area Studies Review* 15(4): 393-415.
- Michael Albertus and Victor Menaldo. 2013. 'Gaming democracy: Elite dominance during transition and the prospects for redistribution.' *British Journal of Political Science* 44: 575-603.
- Daron Acemoglu, Suresh Naidu, Pascual Restrepo and James A. Robinson. 2015. 'Democracy, redistribution and inequality', in the *Handbook of Income Distribution* 2: 1885-1966.

17 June: Democracy and Conflict

- Donald Horowitz. 1993. 'The challenge of ethnic conflict: Democracy in divided societies.' *Journal of Democracy* 4(4): 18-38.
- M. Steven Fish and Robin S. Brooks. 2004. 'Does diversity hurt democracy?' *Journal of Democracy* 15(1): 154-166.
- Kanchan Chandra. 2005. 'Ethnic parties and democratic stability.' *Perspectives on Politics* 3(2): 235-252.
- Adam Przeworski. 2011. 'Divided we stand? Democracy as a method of processing conflicts.' *Scandinavian Political Studies* 34(2): 168-182.

24 June: Minority Rights and Representation

- Jane Mansbridge. 1999. 'Should blacks represent blacks and women represent women? A contingent yes.' *Journal of Politics* 61(3): 628-57.
- Iris Marion Young. 2000. *Inclusion and Democracy*, chs. 3-4.
- Will Kymlicka. 2001. 'The new debate over minority rights', in *Politics in the Vernacular: Nationalism, Multiculturalism and Citizenship*.

1 July: The Boundary Problem

- Robert E. Goodin. 2007. 'Enfranchising all affected interests, and its alternatives.' *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 35(1): 40-68.
- Arash Abizadeh. 2008. 'Democratic theory and border coercion: no right to unilaterally control your own borders.' *Political Theory* 36(1): 37-65.
- Daniele Archibugi. 2004. 'Cosmopolitan democracy and its critics: A review.' *European Journal of International Relations* 10(3): 437-473.

8 July: The Problem of Citizen Competence

- Arthur Lupia and Matthew D. McCubbins. 2000. 'The institutional foundations of political competence: How citizens learn what they need to know', in Lupia et al. (eds.), *Elements of Reason: Cognition, Choice, and the Bounds of Rationality*, pp. 47-66.
- Robert Y. Shapiro and Yaeli Bloch-Elkon. 2008. 'Do the facts speak for themselves? Partisan disagreement as a challenge to democratic competence.' *Critical Review* 20(1-2): 115-139.
- Jason Brennan. 2011. 'The right to a competent electorate.' *The Philosophical Quarterly* 61(245): 700-724.
- H el ene Landemore. 2012. 'Why the many are smarter than the few and why it matters.' *Journal of Public Deliberation* 8(1): 7.

15 July: The Future of Democracy

- Amartya Sen. 1999. 'Democracy as a universal value.' *Journal of Democracy* 10(3): 3-17.
- Daniel Bell. 2015. *The China Model: Political Meritocracy and the Limits of Democracy*, chs. 1-2.

21 July: EXAM (9:00–10:00, at 216 H orsaal H124)