

## **Democratic Theory and Practice**

Winter Term 2021/2022

Time: Wednesday 10:00-11:30 AM

Location: IBW Gebäude, Horsaal 114

Instructor: Jun.-Prof. Chitrlekha Basu, PhD

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Office Hours: by appointment

**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.

**Assessment.** Your grade in this class will be based on a written examination (time and date TBD). For the exam, students should be familiar with all topics and texts covered during the course, and will be asked to answer several short essay questions. More information on format and content will be provided closer to the date.

**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

#### **13 October: 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.

- Thomas Christiano. 2004. 'The authority of democracy.' *Journal of Political Philosophy* 12(3): 266-290.
- Laura Valentini. 2012. 'Justice, disagreement and democracy.' *British Journal of Political Science* 43: 177-199.

### **20 October: Classical Theories of Democracy**

- John Locke. 1689. *Second Treatise of Government*, chs. 8-9.
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau. 2003 [1762]. 'The Social Contract', in Robert A. Dahl et al. (eds.), *The Democracy Sourcebook*, pp. 2-4.
- John Stuart Mill. 2003 [1861]. 'Representative Government' in Robert A. Dahl et al. (eds.), *The Democracy Sourcebook*, pp. 312-314.

### **27 October: The Empirical Turn in Democratic Theory**

- Joseph Schumpeter. 1953. *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*, chs. 21-22.
- Robert Dahl. 1956. *A Preface to Democratic Theory*, chs. 3 and 5.

### **3 November: Alternatives to Electoral Democracy**

- Carole Pateman. 1976. *Participation and Democratic Theory*, pp. 1-35.
- Joshua Cohen. 1997. 'Deliberation and democratic legitimacy', in James Bohman and William Rehg (eds.), *Deliberative Democracy: Essays on Reason and Politics*, pp. 67-92.
- Alexander Guerrero. 2014. 'Against elections: The lottocratic alternative.' *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 42(2): 135-178.

### **10 November: The Populist Challenge**

- Cas Mudde and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser. 2012. *Populism in Europe and the Americas: Threat or Corrective for Democracy*, chs. 1 and 10.
- Chantal Mouffe. 1999. 'Deliberative democracy or agonistic pluralism?' *Social Research* 66(3): 745-758.
- Michael Calderbank. 'For a left populism: An interview with Chantal Mouffe'. *Red Pepper Magazine*, 22 September 2018.

## Part II: Democracy in Practice

### **17 November: Democracy and Capitalism**

- Milton Friedman. 1962. *Capitalism and Freedom*, ch. 1-2.
- Charles Lindblom. 1982. 'The market as prison.' *Journal of Politics* 44(2): 324-336.
- Torben Iversen and David Soskice. 2019. *Democracy and Prosperity: Reinventing Capitalism Through a Turbulent Century*, ch. 1.

### **24 November: Democracy and Growth**

- Daron Acemoglu et al. 'Democracy causes economic development?' Vox EU, 19 May 2014.
- Daniel Treisman. 2020. 'Economic development and democracy: Predispositions and triggers.' *Annual Review of Political Science* 23: 241-257.
- Carl Knutsen. 2020. 'A business case for democracy: Regime type, growth, and growth volatility.' *Democratization*.

### **1 December: Democracy and Redistribution**

- 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 et al. 'Can democracy help with inequality?'. Vox EU, 7 February 2014.
- Robin Harding. 2020. 'Who is democracy good for? Elections, rural bias, and health and education outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa.' *Journal of Politics* 82(1): 241-254.

### **8 December: 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.

### **15 December: Multiculturalism and Minority Rights**

- Will Kymlicka. 1996. *Multicultural Citizenship: A Liberal Theory of Minority Rights*, chs. 2-3.
- Brian Barry. 2001. *Culture and Equality: An Egalitarian Critique of Multiculturalism*, ch. 2.
- Susan Okin. 1999. *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?*, pp. 7-24.
- Ayelet Shachar. 2001. *Multicultural Jurisdiction and Women's Rights*, ch. 6.

### **22 December: Descriptive Representation**

- Anne Phillips. 1998. *The Politics of Presence*, chs. 1-2.
- Jane Mansbridge. 1999. 'Should blacks represent blacks and women represent women? A contingent yes.' *Journal of Politics* 61(3): 628-57.
- Jane Mansbridge. 2015. 'Should workers represent workers?' *Swiss Political Science Review* 21(2): 261-270.

### **12 January: The Boundary Problem**

- Daniele Archibugi. 2004. 'Cosmopolitan democracy and its critics: A review.' *European Journal of International Relations* 10(3): 437-473.

- 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.

### **19 January: The Problem of Citizen Competence**

- Jason Brennan. 2011. 'The right to a competent electorate.' *The Philosophical Quarterly* 61(245): 700-724.
- Samuel Bagg. 2018. 'The power of the multitude: Answering epistemic challenges to democracy.' *American Political Science Review* 112(4): 891-904.
- Dimitri Landa and Ryan Pevnick. 2020. 'Representative democracy as defensible epistocracy.' *American Political Science Review* 114(1): 1-13.

### **2 February: The Future of Democracy**

- Daniel Bell. 2015. *The China Model: Political Meritocracy and the Limits of Democracy*, chs. 1-2.
- Panel on 'Can the China Model succeed?', with Orville Schell, Timothy Garten Ash, Mark Danner, Taisu Zhang, Andrew Nathan and Daniel Bell. Asia Society, 15 October 2015.