**DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIZATION** **(PS 4633/6633)**

Spring 2016 |Tue/Thur. 12.30 - 1.45 pm | Simrall 250

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The root words of ‘democracy’ – *demos* (people) and *kratos* (power) – suggest a concept that is as normatively appealing as it is straightforward: literally ‘people power’ or, rule by the people. Indeed, the idea that the people should exercise political power has motivated countless social movements, including the recent popular uprisings known as the Arab Spring, while the Universal Declaration of Human Rights effectively treats democracy as a human right. The purpose of this course is to encourage students to take a critical approach to democracy, by considering some of the ongoing debates in contemporary political theory. Returning to the roots of the concept, key questions that we will consider in the course are: What institutions are necessary for the people to govern? What responsibilities come with being a democratic citizen? Who are ‘the people,’ how are some subjects excluded from exercising political power in so-called democracies, and what steps can or should we take to ‘deepen’ democracy? Finally, we will consider what challenges and opportunities globalization poses for democracy.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

• Students will be able to discuss the complexities and contested character of ‘democracy’

• Students will be able to identify the key points and distinguishing features of the major schools of democratic theory, especially liberal, republican, deliberative and radical

• Students will be able to contribute more effectively and thoughtfully to intellectual and political discussion

* Students will be able to read complicated texts with greater ease and write at a higher level of sophistication.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION**

* 4 Response papers (1 page each): 20% (5% each)
* Essay 1 (Thur., March 3): 20%
* Essay 2 (Tue., April 26): 30%
* Final exam (Tuesday, May 3): 20%
* Twitter assignment (weekly): 10%

 **CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

**Response Papers**

* **Response papers** must be submitted on the same day as the reading to which they respond is assigned. In other words, **you may not write a response paper about a reading that we have already covered in class**.
* You must write each response paper on a separate part of the course. There are four parts to the course, so you need to submit a response paper for each part.
* The response papers must include two basic components: First, a summary of the reading’s main arguments. In this section, your goal is to provide the reader with the basic outlines of what the author says, much as you would find in a book review. Use quotations sparingly. In the second section of the response paper you should try to evaluate and analyze what you have read. Possibilities for what to write in this section include, but are not limited to: developing a critique of the argument; exploring the assumptions you think the author has made, and considering whether they seem plausible; making connections with other readings and/or themes of the class; contemplating the relevance of the text to contemporary life. You are encouraged (but are not required) to use these papers as the basis for your essays.

**Essays**

The **two essays** will test reading comprehension, writing, and ability to construct a persuasive argument using the texts we will have read in class. I will circulate prompts with more detailed instructions and guidelines at least two weeks before the due date and encourage you to meet with me to discuss any ideas, questions, or problems you encounter as you write. They will be 4-5 and 5-6 pages long.

**Final exam:** multiple choice, true/false, quote identification questions, and short essay questions.

**Twitter Participation**:

* Please use the hashtag **#democracymsu** in your tweets. This allows me and other members of the class to find your tweet. You should search for this hashtag to find new tweets at least once a week, ideally more often.
* To receive full credit for this assignment you must tweet **twice a week** during the entire course of the semester.
* Your tweets can take various forms:
	+ A pithy summary of the reading,
	+ A response to the reading,
	+ A question about the reading,
	+ A continuation of the discussion we’ve had in class,
	+ A retweet or link to a relevant article, webpage, story etc, with an explanation of its relevance to the topic we are currently discussing in class
	+ A response to another student’s tweet.

**GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Graduate students must submit a response paper (following the instructions above) each week throughout the semester. They will answer the same two essay prompts as undergraduates, but are expected to write 8 and 10 pages for the two papers respectively. The weighting of assignments remains as listed above.

**STANDARDS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

I will grade your papers, response papers and all test and exam questions that do not have a simple right or wrong answer according to the following scale. More detailed guidelines will be included with the paper prompts.

**A (100-90%):** Very good to excellent work, with few, if any, missteps.

**B (89-80%):** Good to very good work, with some missteps but also flashes of excellence.

**C (79-70%):** Satisfactory work that sincerely attempts to analyze the readings and issues at hand, but with serious flaws.

**D (69-60%):** Work attempting to engage the readings and issues at hand, but without the execution befitting an MSU student.

**F (59% or less):** Work that does not meet the minimum requirements of the assignment.

**TITLE IX**

MSU is committed to complying with Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination, including violence and harassment, based on sex. This means that MSU’s educational programs and activities must be free from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and other forms of sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination, sexual violence and/or harassment by any member of the University community, you are encouraged to report the conduct to MSU’s Director of Title IX/EEO Programs at 325-8124 or by e-mail to

titleix@msstate.edu. Additional resources are available at http://www.msstate.edu/web/security,

or at http://students.msstate.edu/sexualmisconduct/ . Other good organizations with online resources are Know Your IX, End Rape on Campus, and SurvJustice.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Mississippi State has an approved Honor Code that applies to all students. The code is as follows: “As a Mississippi State University student, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.” Upon accepting admission to Mississippi State University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor Code. Student will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the MSU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor Code. For additional information, please visit: http://honorcode.msstate.edu/policy.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students who need academic accommodations based on disability should visit the Office of Student Support Services, 01 Montgomery Hall, call 662-325-3335, or visit the website at [www.sss.msstate.edu](http://www.sss.msstate.edu)

**LATE WORK POLICY**

Please contact me as soon as you have any concerns about meeting a deadline to discuss the possibility of an extension. Papers submitted after the relevant deadline will be penalized five percentage points per day (or any part thereof), unless you are able to provide evidence of a medical or family emergency.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance for the entire duration of each and every class is mandatory. You are allowed three unexcused absences during the semester. After that, I will deduct 0.5% from your overall grade for each class that you miss. On the other hand, if you have no unexcused absences for the whole semester you will receive 5% extra credit to your overall grade.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

The following texts have been ordered at the Campus Barnes and Noble:

David Held, *Models of Democracy* Third Edition

Seyla Benhabib (ed.), *Democracy and Difference: Contesting the Boundaries of the Political*

Jason Frank, *Constituent Moments*

Iris Marion Young, *Inclusion and Democracy*

Chantal Mouffe, *The Democratic Paradox*

The following articles are all available from the Library:

To download the articles, go to <http://lib.msstate.edu> and then enter the article title (with speech marks) in the search bar. You will then be able to select the full text.

Jacques Rancière, “Ten Theses on Politics”

Nancy Fraser, “Transnationalizing the Public Sphere”

Sofia Näsström, “What Globalization Overshadows”

Paulina Ochoa Espejo, “People, Territory and Legitimacy in Democratic States”

**Part 1: Democracy** **in Historical Perspective**

Week 1:

Tuesday, January 12: Introduction to the class

Thursday, January 14: Held*, Models of Democracy*, Introduction and chapters 1-2

Week 2:

Tuesday, January 19: Held*, Models of Democracy* chapter 3

Thursday, January 21: Held*, Models of Democracy* chapters 4-5

Week 3:

Tuesday, January 26: Held, *Models of Democracy* chapter 6

Thursday, January 28: Held, *Models of Democracy* chapters 7-8

**Part 2: Contemporary Democratic Theory: Democracy and Difference**

Week 4:

Tuesday, February 2: Held, *Models of Democracy* chapter 9

Thursday, February 4: Benhabib, *Democracy and Difference* Introduction and Chapters 1-2

Week 5:

Tuesday, February 9: Benhabib, *Democracy and Difference* Chapters 4-5

Thursday, February 11: Benhabib, *Democracy and Difference* Chapters 7-8, 10

Week 6:

Tuesday, February 16: Benhabib, *Democracy and Difference* Chapters 13-14

Thursday, February 18: Benhabib, *Democracy and Difference* Chapters 15, 17-20

Week 7:

Tuesday, February 23: Young, *Inclusion and Democracy* Introduction and Chapter 1

Thursday, February 25: Young, *Inclusion and Democracy* Introduction and Chapters 2-3

Week 8:

Tuesday, March 1: Young, *Inclusion and Democracy* Introduction and Chapters 4-5

Thursday, March 3: Young, *Inclusion and Democracy* Introduction and Chapter 6

**First paper due in class today.**

**Part 3: Radical Democracy**

Week 9:

Tuesday, March 8: Mouffe, *Democratic Paradox* Introduction and Chapter 1

Thursday, March 10: Mouffe, *Democratic Paradox,* Chapters 2-3

Week 10: SPRING BREAK

Week 11:

Tuesday, March 22: Mouffe, *Democratic Paradox,* Chapter 4-5

Thursday, March 24: Mouffe, *Democratic Paradox,* Conclusion

Week 12:

Tuesday, March 29: Rancière, “Ten Theses on Politics”

Thursday, March 31: Frank, *Constituent Moments*, Introduction

Week 13:

Tuesday, April 5: Frank, *Constituent Moments*, chapter 1.

Thursday, April 7: Frank, *Constituent Moments*, chapter 2.

Week 14:

Tuesday, April 12: Frank, *Constituent Moments*, chapter 6 and chapter 7.

**Part 4: Democracy and Globalization**

Thursday, April 14: Held, *Models of Democracy*, Chapter 10

Week 15:

Tuesday, April 19: Young, *Inclusion and Democracy,* Chapter 7; and/or Fraser, “Transnationalizing the Public Sphere”

Thursday, April 21: Sofia Näsström, “What Globalization Overshadows”

Week 16:

Tuesday, April 26: Paulina Ochoa Espejo, “People, Territory and Legitimacy in Democratic States”

**Second paper due today.**

Thursday, April 28: Reading day

**Final Exam:**

Tuesday, May 3, 12-3pm