

## 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 constitutionalism 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 SARS-CoV-2 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 discussion forum which enrolled students will be able to access through ILIAS. Students are encouraged to post questions about the course material on this forum (anonymously, if you wish). Moreover, following each session, there will be an (optional) multiple-choice quiz 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. Please note that, under the circumstances, alternative arrangements may become necessary.

**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: Origins of Liberal Constitutionalism

- Edmund Burke. 1791. *Reflections on the Revolution in France*.
- Benjamin Constant. 1816. *The Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of Moderns*.
- J. S. Mill. 1861. *Considerations on Representative Government*, chs. I-VIII.

#### 29 April: Postwar Liberalism and the 'Just Society'

- 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.

#### 6 May: 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.
- Adam Przeworski. 1999. 'Minimalist conception of democracy: A defense', in Ian Shapiro and Casiano Hacker-Cordon (eds.) *Democracy's Value*, pp. 23-55.

#### 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.
- Lynn M. Sanders. 1997. 'Against deliberation.' *Political Theory* 25(3): 347-376.

#### 20 May: The Populist Challenge

- Chantal Mouffe. 2000. *The Democratic Paradox*, ch. 4.

- Koen Abts and Stefan Rummens. 2007. 'Populism versus democracy.' *Political Studies* 55(2): 405-424.
- Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser. 2012. 'The ambivalence of populism: Threat and corrective for democracy.' *Democratization* 62(3): 470-487.

## 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.
- Daron Acemoglu, Suresh Naidu, Pascual Restrepo and James A. Robinson. 2015. 'Democracy, redistribution and inequality', in the *Handbook of Income Distribution 2: 1885-1966*.
- Michael Albertus. 2015. 'A theory of land reform', in *Autocracy and Redistribution*, ch. 3.

### 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.
- 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.
- David Held. 2010. 'Principles of cosmopolitan order', in Garrett W. Brown and David Held (eds.), *The Cosmopolitanism Reader*, pp. 229-247.

8 July: The Problem of Citizen Competence

- Samuel L. Popkin and Michael A. Dimock. 2010. 'Political knowledge and citizen competence' in Elkin and Soltan (eds.), *Citizen Competence and Democratic Institutions*, ch. 6.
- Arthur Lupia. 2006. 'How elitism undermines the study of voter competence.' *Critical Review* 18(1-3): 217-232.
- Jason Brennan. 2011. 'The right to a competent electorate.' *The Philosophical Quarterly* 61(245): 700-724.

15 July: The Future of Democracy

- Amartya Sen. 1999. 'Democracy as a universal value.' *Journal of Democracy* 10(3): 3-17.
- Tongdong Bai. 2019. *Against Political Equality: The Confucian Case*, chs. 3-4.

21 July: EXAM (9:00–10:00, at 216 Hörsaal H124)