

Analyzing Democracy: Theory, Practice, Innovations

(MA course, Winter 2018)

Instructor

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Classes

Thursday 17:20 – 19:00

Office Hours

Thursday 19:00 – 20:00

Friday 11:00 – 12:00

Credits

2 credits

Course Description

Introduction

This course focuses on the ways contemporary democracies are analyzed, evaluated and innovations proposed. The course is divided into several parts. The first part concentrates on the ontological aspects – on the concepts, models and patterns of democratic regimes. The second part focuses on challenges and methodological issues. The third – on accountability and democratic performance. Part four deals with democratic citizens, their normative expectations towards democracy, their evaluations and democratic legitimacy. Last part looks at democratic innovations and prospects of democracy.

Expectations

The class will be run in a seminar-like manner, although the instructor will devote part of the time of each class to present the broader aspects of each topic. Students are expected to be present, active, and prepared for thorough discussion of the readings assigned.

Course Objectives

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the mainstream literature on contemporary democracies. The course should enable students to comprehend the complex issues of the functioning and performance of democracies.

Learning Outcome

First, the course is supposed to make students knowledgeable about important currents in contemporary literature and discussion concerning democracy as a regime type. Second, during the course students are expected to enhance their capacity to understand and analyze political institutions, processes and political behavior taking place in contemporary democracies. Third, students will be introduced to innovations to democracy discussed and practiced around the world. Fourth, the class activity, in particular students' presentations of the selected readings should train them in effective appearances in public. Finally, the final essay itself is expected to enhance students' ability to correctly choose literature, deal with methodological issues and also improve their ability to use abstract concepts in contemporary debates about the state of democracy.

Course Requirements and Assessment

- (1) Active class participation, which means: intellectual presence at the class meetings - comments, questions – 10% of the grade
- (2) Class presentation of a selected topic(s), selected by students and sent to the instructor and course participants no later than 24 hours before class presentation – 30%
- (3) Position papers, each student is expected to prepare two position papers, which critically review selected reading from the list (topics different than the one chosen for in-class presentation); each should be no longer than 3 pages – 20%
- (4) Final paper; topic of the final paper to be agreed with the instructor at least three weeks prior to its final submission – 40%

Introduction: Visions and Models

Topic 01: What is Democracy? The Concept (11 Jan 2018)

Sorensen, Georg. 2008. *Democracy and Democratization. Process and Prospects in a Changing World*. Boulder: Westview Press, pp. 3-27

Hendriks, Frank. 2010. *Vital Democracy. A Theory of Democracy in Action*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-46

Topic 02: Variations of democracy in practice (18 Jan 2018)

Hendriks, Frank. 2010. *Vital Democracy. A Theory of Democracy in Action*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 49-131

Challenges, Critics, Methodological Problems

Topic 03: Challenges to democracy and its Critics (25 Jan 2018)

Alonso, Sonia, John Keane, Wolfgang Merkel, eds.. 2011. *The Future of Representative Democracy*.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (Chapter 1 by Nadia Urbinati), pp. 23-46

Hibbing, John R, & Elizabeth Theiss-Morse. 2003. *Stealth Democracy: American's Beliefs about how Government Should Work*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-14; 229-245

Topic 04: Measuring Democracy (1 Feb 2018)

Coppedge, Michael. 2012. *Democratization and Research Methods*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 11-48; 310-328

Democratic Accountability, Responsiveness and Performance

Topic 05: Accountability & Responsiveness (8 Feb 2018)

Schmitter, Philippe. 2005. 'The Ambiguous Virtues of Accountability', in: Larry Diamond & Leonardo Morlino, eds. *Assessing the Quality of Democracy*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 18-31

Schillemans, Thomas & Mark Bovens. 2011. 'The Challenge of Multiple Accountability', in: M.J. Dubnick, H. George Frederickson, eds. *Accountable Governance: Problems and Promises*. A Armonk - London: M.E. Sharpe, pp. 3-21

Topic 06: Performance of Democracy (15 Feb 2018)

Castles, Francis. 2002. 'Policy Performance and the Democratic State: an Emergent Field of Study', in: Hans Keman, ed. *Comparative Democratic Politics: A Guide to Contemporary Theory and Research*. London: Sage, pp. 215-232

Ringen, Stein. 2004. 'A Distributional Theory of Economic Democracy', *Democratization*, Vol.11, No.2, pp. 18-40

Topic 07: Democracy and Development (22 Feb 2018)

Przeworski, Adam, Michael Alvarez, Jose Antonio Cheibub, Fernando Limongi. 2000. *Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World, 1950-1990*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, pp. 78-137

Democratic Citizens

Topic 08: European Citizens as Democrats: Theory and General Results (1 Mar 2018)

Ferrin, Monica and Hanspeter Kriesi, eds. *How Europeans View and Evaluate Democracy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (chapter 1 and 14), 1-20; 307-325

Topic 09: European Citizens as Democrats: their normative expectations, evaluations and legitimacy (8 Mar 2018)

Ferrin, Monica and Hanspeter Kriesi, eds. *How Europeans View and Evaluate Democracy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (chapter 5, 10 and 12), pp. 90-110; 206-232; 257-282)

Alternatives to Representative Democracy, Democratic Innovations & Prospects

Topic 10: Direct Democracies: Hopes and Disillusionment (15 Mar 2018)

LeDuc, Lawrence. 2003. *The Politics of Direct Democracy: Referendums in Global Perspective*. Toronto: Broadview Press, pp. 19-50; 165-184

Topic 11: Democratic Innovations (22 Mar 2018)

Fishkin, James & Robert Luskin. 2000. 'The quest for deliberative democracy', in: Michael Saward, ed. *Democratic Innovation*. London: Routledge, pp. 17-28
Smith, Graham. 2000. 'Toward deliberative institutions', in: Michael Saward, ed. *Democratic Innovation*. London: Routledge, pp. 29-39
Goodin, Robert. 2003. *Reflective Democracy*. Oxford UP, pp. 1-22; 194-225

Topic 12: Prospects for Democracy (29 Mar 2018)

Alonso, Sonia, John Keane, Wolfgang Merkel, eds.. 2011. *The Future of Representative Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-22.
Ringin, Stein. 2007. *What Democracy is For? On Freedom and Moral Government*. Princeton – Oxford: Princeton University Press, pp. 217-238
Hendriks, Frank. 2010. *Vital Democracy. A Theory of Democracy in Action*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 157-188

Additional (Recommended) readings:

- Schmitter, Philippe & Alexander Trechsel. 2004. *The Future of Democracy in Europe: Trends, Analyses, and Reforms*. A Green paper for the Council of Europe.
- Held, David. 1987. *Models of Democracy*. Stanford: Stanford UP, pp. 105-220
- Katz, Richard. 1997. *Democracy and Elections*. New York—Oxford: Oxford UP, pp. 27-66, 78-99
- Lijphart, Arend. 1999. *Patterns of Democracy. Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven—London
- Saward, Michael. 1994. 'Democratic Theory and Indices of Democratization', in: David Beetham, ed. *Defining and Measuring Democracy*. London: Sage, pp. 6-24
- Beetham, David. 1994. 'Key Principles and Indices for a Democratic Audit', in: David Beetham, ed. *Defining and Measuring Democracy*. London: Sage, pp. 25-43
- Castles, Francis. 2002. 'Policy Performance and the Democratic State: an Emergent Field of Study', in: Hans Keman, ed. *Comparative Democratic Politics: A Guide to Contemporary Theory and Research*. London: Sage, pp. 215-232
- Ringen, Stein. 2004. 'A Distributional Theory of Economic Democracy', *Democratization*, Vol.11, No.2, pp. 18-40
- Mainwaring, Scott, Daniel Brinks, and Anibal Perez-Linan. 2006. 'Classifying Political Regimes in Latin America, 1945-2004', in: Gerardo Munck, ed. *Regimes and Democracy in Latin America: Theories and Methods*. Cambridge UP, pp. 123-162
- Saward, Michael, ed. 2007. *Democracy: Critical Concepts in Political Science*. London – New York: Routledge
- Soroka, Stuart & Christopher Wlezien. 2010. *Degrees of Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- McGann, Anthony. 2006. *The Logic of Democracy*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press
- LeDuc, Lawrence, Richard Niemi, Pippa Norris, eds. 2014. *Comparing Democracies 4: Elections and Voting in a Changing World*. Los Angeles: Sage.
- Zielonka, Jan, ed. 2015. *Media and Politics in New Democracies*. Oxford: Oxford UP.
- Dalton, Russel. 2007. *Democratic Challenges. Democratic Choices*. Oxford: Oxford UP.
- Bermeo, Nancy and Larry Bartels. 2014. *Mass Politics in Tough Times*. Oxford: Oxford UP
- Norris, Pippa. 2004. *Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behavior*.

Cambridge – New York: Cambridge University Press

Michael MacKuen & George Rabinowitz, eds. *Electoral Democracy*. Michigan: University of Michigan Press

Russell Dalton & Martin P. Wattenberg, eds. 2000. *Parties without Partisans: Political Change in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Pitkin, Hanna F. 1967. *The Concept of Representation*. Berkeley – Los Angeles – London: University of California Press

Rehfeld, Andrew. 2005. *The Concept of Constituency: Political Representation, Democratic Legitimacy, and Institutional Design*. Cambridge: CUP

Roberts, Andrew, 2010. *The Quality of Democracy in Eastern Europe. Public Preferences and Policy Reforms*. Cambridge: CUP

Przeworski, Adam, Susan C. Stokes, Bernard Manin, eds. 1999. *Democracy, Accountability and Representation*. Cambridge UP