Instructor:
Christopher Stone
SSB 737
stone571@umn.edu
Office Hours: Mon. 4:15-5:15, and by appointment

POL3235W: Democracy & Citizenship

Key Dates

Paper 1 Draft 1: June 28
Paper 2 Draft 1: July 12
Final Drafts Paper 1 & 2: August 2
Final Presentation: August 2

Course Description

Democracy seems to be an intuitively simple concept to many Americans. Americans know what democracy, and the corresponding values of freedom and equality mean because they live under a democratic system of government that guarantees liberty and justice for all, and equality regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, or sex. Likewise, Americans know that being a citizen means we have certain rights. (and duties?) When we delve a little deeper into what these concepts mean, however, we discover that this apparent certainty papers over a host of disagreements, divisions, and uncertainties. These complexities have bubbled up to the surface today, as they have historically, through a number of contemporary concerns espoused by the Occupy Movement, the Tea Party Movement, Black Lives Matter, anti-establishment politics, etc.

This class helps students to engage in the contemporary problems of democracy by grounding the conversation in the historical debates of democratic theory. Rather than suggesting any simple answers, our class will instead pose questions with which we, together, must wrestle. What is the democracy? How should we understand basic concepts of democracy like freedom, equality, and solidarity? How should we respond when these concepts come into conflict? Is capitalism inherently in conflict with democracy? Working through these questions, we will tack back and forth between theoretical debates and contemporary and historical political problems, gaining a more nuanced understanding of the political stakes behind these questions, as well as a more critical perspective from which to understand the political challenges of this moment in history.
Course Resources:

*Moodle: www.z.umn.edu/pol3235*

*Course Google Calendar: www.z.umn.edu/pol3235cal* (must be signed into university google-apps to access, also available for subscription)

*Course Shared Google Drive: www.z.umn.edu/DemTheory* (must be signed into university google-apps to access, also available for subscription)

*PowerPoints & Collective Notes:* the instructor will share a temporary URL at the beginning of each class, giving access to the day’s PowerPoint or collective notes to those in attendance. The URL will be available until the beginning of the next class period.

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to come to class having completed their assigned reading and ready to contribute to in-class discussions. This class will make important use of group work to cover class material and engage with that material. *Preparation for these activities is accordingly important for your colleagues as well as for you.*

In order to be fully prepared to participate in class you should be sure to:

- Come to class with paper and a pen or pencil. A computer is not sufficient—I may ask to collect in-class work.
- Come to class with your readings. We will refer to them in class. You may use a computer to refer to digital versions or use a printed version of the readings. A cellphone is not an acceptable substitute.
- Arrive on time.

In addition to our work in class there are four components to your course grade: attendance, two 5-6 page papers, and a final presentation. Your papers will deal with analyzing and applying the texts we study in class. Your presentation will address a contemporary issue of your choice through the various lenses of democratic theory we discuss over the course of the semester. To track attendance there will be 6 pop quizzes over the course of the semester. In the case of a *documented, excused absence* students’ grades will be calculated according to an average excluding these absences.

Students must submit both a hard copy and a digital copy of their papers in order to receive a grade. Student papers will also be submitted to turnitin.com

Students are strongly encouraged to be proactive in addressing any conflicts or issues with completing their assignments. Please reach out early to the instructor and teaching assistant to work out reasonable accommodations.
Grading:

Course grades will be calculated with the following percentages. For papers 1 & 2, your grade will be calculated using the higher to the 2 grades. Final grades may be higher than mathematically calculated—active participation in class will be used to raise the grades of students who are on the borderline between two grades.

Attendance: 10%
Paper 1: 35%
Paper 2: 35%
Final Presentation: 20%

Course Overview & Assignments:

What is democracy?

Week 1

Monday, June 12, 2017: Introduction & Rousseau

*The Square.* 2015. Directed by Jehane Noujaim. City Drive Films. DVD

*12 Angry Men.* 1957. Directed by Sidney Lumet. MGM.


Wednesday, June 14, 2017: Schumpeter


Week 2

Monday, June 19, 2017: Pateman


Recommended: Pateman, *Participation & Democratic Theory,* conclusion
Wednesday, June 21, 2017: Applying our conceptions of Democracy & Deliberative Democracy


**Week 4**

Monday, June 26, 2017: Deliberative Democracy Theory & Practice


Jigsaw Groups:


**Citizenship**

Wednesday, June 28, 2017: Theories of Citizenship

Aristotle *Politics* Book III chapters 1-6


**Week 5**

Monday, July 3, 2017: Citizenship in a historical and contemporary perspective


Democratic Values: Freedom, Equality, & Solidarity

Wednesday, July 5, 2017: Freedom

Constant, Benjamin. [1816]. The Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of the Moderns. Indianapolis: Liberty Fund.


Case-studies: Puerto Rico & the Promesa Bill and Poverty


Week 6

Monday, July 10, 2017: Equality


Wednesday, July 12, 2017: Equality Continued


Campaign Zero, The Problem: https://www.joincampaignzero.org/problem/

Campaign Zero, Solutions: https://www.joincampaignzero.org/solutions/#oversight
Week 7

Monday, July 17, 2017: Solidarity


Read at least 1 of the following journal articles. The New York Times piece pairs with Siebers


Wednesday, July 19, 2017: The Case for Capitalism


Week 8

Monday, July 24, 2017: The Problems with Capitalism

Wednesday, July 26, 2017: Free Speech: The Market Place of Ideas or Political Struggle


Sommers, Christina Hoff, Milo Yiannopoulos, and Steven Crowder. 2016 “The Triggering: Has Political Correctness Gone Too Far.” Presented by the University of Massachusetts College Republicans, Amherst, MA. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffOPImz4Rp0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffOPImz4Rp0)

**CLASS MATERIALS**


Okeke, Cameron. 2016. “I’m a black UChicago graduate. Safe spaces got me through college.” *Vox*

Halberstam, Jack. 2016. “Hiding the Tears in My Eyes – BOYS DON’T CRY – A Legacy” December 7

**Week 9**

Monday, July 31, 2017: Voting Rights

Stanton, Elizabeth Cady al. 1848. “Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions – Seneca Falls”

King, Martin Luther. 1957. “Give Us the Ballot.” Delivered at the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom. Washington D.C. 17 May


North Carolina NAACP vs. McCory. 2016. excerpt

Wednesday, August 2, 2017: Final Presentations