The aim of this course is to critically comprehend terms such as “people,” “demos,” “rule,” “popular sovereignty,” “constituent power,” “representation,” “deliberation,” “constituency,” and “citizenship.” Many of these terms can be associated with both procedural and agonistic conceptions of democracy. The hope is that the course will permit consideration of the meaning of the above terms, as far as possible, from the perspective of both conceptions of democracy. As well, the course aims to enable familiarity with classifications of democracy that go under headings such as “liberal,” “radical,” and “socialist.” For themes such as constituent power and representation, the course will entail engagement with both contemporary democratic theory and the history of democratic political thought. The course will also probe how different strands of contemporary democratic theory engage (i) contestation, persuasion, rhetoric and deliberation; (ii) association and participation; (iii) modes of representation in formal decision making forums; and (iv) the effect on democratic politics of claims to group rights. Reading materials for the course will also consider the phenomenon of transnational democracy, and issues related to the impact of the new social media on democratic theory and practice.

Based on the above, the course is divided into the following segments:

1. (a) Cultures of Democracy
   (b) Democracy and the Political

2. (a) Elitist Theory of Democracy and Its Critics
   (b) Liberal Democracy and Its Critics

3. Representation

4. Participation, Persuasion, Rhetoric and Populism

5. Citizenship

**Selected Readings**


Hannah Arendt, selections from *On Revolution* and *The Human Condition*

Brian Barry, “Is Democracy Special?” from *Democracy and Power*

Margaret Canovan, selections from *The People*


Partha Chatterjee, selections from *Politics of the Governed* and *Lineages of Political Society*


Bryan Garsten, selections from *Saving Persuasion*

Phillip Green (ed.) *Democracy* for selections from the writings of Robert Michels, Max Weber, Joseph A. Schumpeter, Berelson, Lazarsfeld and McPhee, John Dewey and Peter Bachrach


Jürgen Habermas, “Three Normative Models of Democracy,” in *Democracy and Difference: Contesting the Boundaries of the Political*. Edited by Seyla Benhabib.

Jürgen Habermas, “Constitutional Democracy: A Paradoxical Union of Contradictory Principles?” *Political Theory* 29:6 (December 2001), 766-81

Andreas Kalyvas, selections from *Democracy and the Politics of the Extraordinary*

Alan Keenan, selections from *Democracy in Question*
Charles Larmore, “Carl Schmitt’s Critique of Liberal Democracy,” from The Morals of Modernity


Chantal Mouffe and Ernesto Laclau, selections from Hegemony and Socialist Strategy
Jan-Werner Müller, “‘The people must be extracted from within the people’: Reflections on populism.” Constellations 21, no. 4 (2014): 483-493.


Anne Phillips, selections from The Politics of Presence


Andrew Rehfeld, selections from The Concept of Constituency

Emmanuel Joseph Sieyès, Political Writings, ed. M. Sonenscher

Alexis de Tocqueville, selections from Democracy in America

Charles Taylor “Modes of Secularism” in Rajeev Bhargava (ed.) *Secularism and Its Critics*


Mark Warren, selections from *Democracy and Association*

Melissa S. Williams, selections from *Voice, Trust and Memory*

Melissa S. Williams, “Nonterritorial boundaries of citizenship” in *Identities, affiliations, and allegiances*

Melissa S. Williams, “Citizenship as Agency within Communities of Shared Fate” in *Unsettled legitimacy: Political community, power, and authority in a global era*

Sheldon Wolin, “Fugitive Democracy” in *Democracy and Difference: Contesting the Boundaries of the Political*. Edited by Seyla Benhabib.


Iris Marion Young, selections from *Democracy and Inclusion*