

THEORIES OF POLITICAL COMMUNITY

POLSCI 757 / GLOBALST 741

Term 2, Winter 2019

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Lecture: Thursdays 11:30am-2:20pm
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Course Description

Populist democracy can look like the curse or the salvation of modern society. The root of these developments lies the powerful idea of ‘the people’ as supreme authority, the sovereign author of all law with the power to make or break the political order. But if everyone knows “the people” is a giant fiction why is it still so powerful? Should it be set aside? If so, what might alternatives look like? Finally, if we are entering a post-sovereign era in internationally, can the popular voice heard in this new environment?

Objectives

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Discuss and critically analyze leading theories on popular sovereignty;
- Develop strong theoretical arguments on issues of collective authority;
- Deliver informed judgments on political events by placing them in a wider context of social, historical and ethical developments;
- Defend this position in written and verbal form;
- Identify and anticipate challenges to political communities that arise with regard to issues of representative authority.
- Suggest ways authority, sovereignty and popular democracy can be re-imagined.

Required Materials and Texts

There are no required textbook(s). Students will have assigned readings as listed under the Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings Section.

Class Format

This course will adapt a seminar format.

Course Evaluation – Overview

Weekly Reflection Papers – 30%, beginning 17 January 2018

Participation – 20%

Research design – 10%, due 14 February 2018

Major Research Paper – 40%, due 4 April 2018

Course Evaluation – Details

Participation (20%), due ongoing

Includes preparation for class by reading course materials, developing questions and insights for discussion, contributing meaningfully in a manner that deepens awareness of

the themes of the reading or that week's topic, and maintaining a collegial environment of mutual respect and supportive learning.

Weekly Reflection Papers (30%), due beginning 17 January

Submit a one-page, single-spaced (500 word) reflection paper on the week's course readings, every week beginning **17 January**. Papers should be dropped to my mailbox in KTH or posted on avenue by 10am on the day of class. At the end of the course the lowest three paper grades will be dropped from the final calculation of the overall grade.

Research Design (10%), due 14 February

A two-page (minimum, there is no maximum) outline of the research topic that clearly identifies a primary research question and outlines a research plan for how to address it.

Major Research Paper (40%), due 4 April

A 18-20 page paper that draws on a theoretical perspective from the class readings and develops it with regard to a specific case, or in light of a particular theoretical critique. Requirements will be discussed further in class, and I am happy to discuss with students how different theoretical approaches might work for their specific topic.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (JAN 10) Introduction

Readings: no readings

Week 2 (JAN 17) Dictatorship

Readings:

- Carl Schmitt (2005) *Political Theology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (66). Available online at:
http://ebooks.bharathuniv.ac.in/gdlc1/gdlc4/Arts_and_Science_Books/arts/philosophy/Books/Political%20Theology.pdf

Week 3 (JAN 24) Totalitarianism and Revolution

Readings:

- Hannah Arendt (1958) "A Classless Society: The Masses," *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. New York: Meridian Books, pp. 305-26 (21). Available online at:
https://monoskop.org/File:Arendt_Hannah_The_Origins_of_Totalitarianism_1979.pdf
- Hannah Arendt(1963) "Foundation I: Constitutio Libertatis" & "Foundation II: Novus Ordo Saeclorum," *On Revolution*. New York: Viking Press, pp. 132-206 (78).

Week 4 (JAN 31) Survival

Readings:

- Giorgio Agamben (1998) *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*. Daniel

Heller-Roazen (trans.) Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press (105). Available online at: <http://www.thing.net/~rdom/ucsd/biopolitics/HomoSacer.pdf>

Week 5 (FEB 7) Sovereignty & Constituent Power

Readings:

- Abbé Sieyès (1798), What is the Third Estate? (17) Available online at: <http://pages.uoregon.edu/dluebke/301ModernEurope/Sieyes3dEstate.pdf>
- Andreas Kalyvas (2005) "Popular Sovereignty, Democracy, and the Constituent Power," *Constellations* 12 (5): 223-44 (21).
- Zoran Oklopcic (2014) Three arenas of struggle: A contextual approach to the constituent power of 'the people.' *Global Constitutionalism* 3 (2): 200-235. (35)

Week 6 (FEB 14) Future Hunger

Readings:

- Thomas Hobbes (1651) "Of Man" chapters 1-7, 11-15. *Leviathan*. New York: Penguin Books (51). A different version is available online at: <https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/hobbes/Leviathan.pdf>
- James R. Martel (2007) "Introduction: Hobbes' Conspiracy against sovereignty" and "Conclusion: Politics without sovereignty" in *Subverting the Leviathan: Reading Thomas Hobbes as a Radical Democrat* New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 1-19, 221-47. (45)

Notes: Research Design due.

Week 7 (FEB 21) Winter mid-term recess, NO CLASS

Week 8 (FEB 28) Time, Voice & Imagination

Readings:

- Paul W. Kahn (2006) Political time: Sovereignty and the transtemporal Community. *Cardozo Law Review* 28 (1): 259-76.
- Aletta Norval (2009) Democracy, pluralization, and voice. *Ethics & Global Politics* 2 (4): 297-320.
- Cas Mudde (2004) The populist zeitgeist. *Government and Opposition* 39 (4): 541-63.

Week 9 (MAR 7) Sovereign Speech

Readings:

- Jacques Derrida (1986) "Declarations of Independence" *New Political Science* 15: 7-15 (8).
- Bonnie Honig (1991) "Declarations of Independence: Arendt and Derrida on the Problem of Founding a Republic" *American Political Science Review* 85(1): 84-113 (29).
- Melissa Matthes (2000) "A Conversation Between Republicanism and Feminism" and "Livy and the Repetition of Republican Foundations" in *The Rape of Lucretia*

and the Founding of Republics. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, pp. 23-50 (27).

Week 10 (MAR 14) People, Multitudes and Identity

Readings:

- Hans Lindahl (2007) "Constituent Power and Reflexive Identity: Towards an Ontology of Collective Statehood" in Martin Loughlin and Neil Walker (eds) *The Paradox of Constitutionalism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 9-24 (15).
- Judith Butler (2015) "We the people" – Thoughts on Freedom of Assembly" in *Notes Toward a Performative Theory of Assembly*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, pp. 154-192 (38).
- Antonio Negri (1999) "The Constitution of Strength" in *Insurgencies: Constituent Power and the Modern State*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 302-334 (32)

Week 11 (MAR 21) Paper Workshop

Readings: no readings

Week 12 (MAR 28) The Sensible

Readings:

- Jacques Ranciere (2010) *Dissensus: On Politics and Aesthetics*. New York, NY: Continuum, pp. 27-111.

Week 13 (APR 4) Violence

Readings:

- Walter Benjamin "Critique of Violence" in *Reflections* Peter Demetz (ed.) New York: Schocken Books, pp. 277-300, (23). Available online at: http://english.columbia.edu/files/english/content/Critique_of_Violence.pdf
- Simon Stow (2007) "Pericles at Gettysburg and Ground Zero: Tragedy, Patriotism, and Public Mourning," *American Political Science Review* 101 (2): 195-208 (13).

Notes: Major Research paper due.

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

- Students are expected to provide legible copies of the assignments. Submission by e- mail is not acceptable unless specifically requested by the instructor.
- A consistent citation system is crucial. I recommend the **Chicago in-text** system. If you do not choose to follow that system please indicate at the end of your paper what citation system you used for the paper.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
69-0	F

Late Assignments

Assignments are due by 4pm on the date indicated. Late penalties of 5% per day will be assigned to work that arrives after the date indicated as the assignment deadline.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Students are expected to attend scheduled classes, and arrive prepared to discuss the week's readings. An environment of mutual respect among students is to be maintained at all times.

Students are expected to complete course assignments on schedule. The only exceptions being in cases of illness (with medical documentation) or immediate personal trauma. Coinciding assignments is not grounds for an extension, so prepare accordingly.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable

notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.