

POS 346: Problems of Democracy

Spring 2016 (SLN 17185)

MWF 12-12:50pm, EDC 117

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Course description

One of the key problems of democracy is defining it. There are many forms of democracy, including—but not limited to—American liberal democracy, European social democracy, and China’s people’s democracy. These forms of democracy embrace, to different degrees, the ideals of liberty and equality. We will explore how these ideals clash and can be reconciled within the informal practices and formal democratic institutions in America and other countries. We will begin with Alexis de Tocqueville’s observations of the social conditions of American democracy in the early 1800s, shortly after the birth of the nation. Then we will examine modern iterations of Tocqueville’s claim that healthy democracies require civic engagement. After applying democratic measures to American democracy, we will consider case studies of emerging democracies abroad.

Required reading

- Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America, Abridged with an Introduction by Michael Kammen* (Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2009). ISBN-13: 978-0312463304 (\$15)
- Russell J. Dalton, *Selected Chapters from Citizen Politics: Custom Electronic Edition* (Slimpack) ISBN: 9781483319025 (Sage, 2013).
- Lawrence LeDuc, Richard Niemi, and Pipa Norris, eds., *Comparing Democracies: Elections and Voting in a Changing World, Fourth Edition* ISBN: 9781446281987 (Sage: 2014).

Course Grading and Requirements

Analytical Summaries/Presentations (two, 10 points each)	20
Participation and Attendance	14
Weekly tweets	10

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Exams and quizzes (two, 12-point exams and two, 6-point quizzes)	36
<u>Group Case Study/Presentation</u>	<u>20</u>
(Grading schema: 97-100=A+, 93-96=A 90-92=A-, etc.)	100

Details of Course Requirements

Analytical Summaries and Presentations (20 points= two analyses, 10 points each)

You will be assigned to summarize and analyze arguments within two of the assigned readings. Each of these 500-word analyses will include a brief précis (summary of the argument) and reaction to/critique of the reading. The précis should paraphrase the argument and conclusion in your own words (rather than relying on quotations) and outline the type of evidence used. The reaction to the reading can be a critique or application of the reading's argument/insight. The summaries are due by midnight BEFORE your assigned class. Late assignments will be penalized 2 points for every 6 hours after their deadline. The written portion of the summary is worth 8 points and should be submitted under the "Analyses and Assignments" Bb section.

During class discussion, I will randomly call upon students assigned to that day's reading to present either the argument and/or your reaction to it. Everyone assigned to that day should be present and prepared to speak briefly. This mini-presentation is worth 2 points. However, you must have submitted a written Analytic Summary prior to class to receive these points.

Participation and Attendance (14 points)

I will randomly take attendance several times during the semester (15-20 randomly-chosen days). I allow 3 absences before deducting points (i.e., you can miss 0-3 roster sign-ins and still earn 14/14 points). With every additional missed roster sign-in, I deduct 1 point (i.e., 4 missed rosters =13/14 points, 6 missed rosters= 11/14 or a C+ for the participation grade). At the end of the semester, I also note whether students have regularly participated and "bump up" borderline grades accordingly.

Weekly tweets (10 points: 20 tweets in 10 weeks, 0.5 point/tweet)

To enhance our in-class and out-of-class discussions of democracy, I require Twitter accounts and will occasionally include live Twitter feeds during class. You may want to create a separate, public Twitter account if your current Twitter account protects tweets as private. Students follow the class account (asupos346); the class account does NOT follow each student (I/we do not want to know your weekend plans). However, to share tweets sent to the class account, everyone's tweets must be unprotected. By Week 2, you should enter your Twitter handle under our Bb "Analyses and Assignments" section and follow the class Twitter account. By Week 3, you should be tweeting two tweets per week about the course topics and include a notification to our class Twitter account (@asupos346). Tweets MUST connect the current week's class discussions and/or readings to an outside world event, article, commentary by you

or somebody else, etc. If you just tweet about a world event and do not tie it in to our discussion/reading, you will not get credit. You also can retweet items of interest, but you need to add an original comment to introduce it. All weekly tweets are due NO LATER than Saturday evening, 11:59 pm. You must tweet in at least 10 weeks, or points will be deducted (i.e., you can't tweet 20 times in the last week).

Exams and quizzes (36 points= two, 12-point exams and two, 6-point quizzes)

The 60-minute exams and 30-minute quizzes include true-false and multiple-choice questions on the assigned readings. They will be available for 48 hours within their related Bb unit. Exam 2 is during finals week. There is no cumulative final exam.

Case Study and presentation (20-point case study with presentation)

Based in part on your preferences, you and 3-4 other students will be assigned to a country and topic for a group case study (e.g., Egyptian or Tunisian constitutions, local elections in China, etc.). The group will determine how to delegate work on the assignment. The project requires scholarly research and application of democratic measures/criteria to an emerging democracy (worth 20 points, 15 points for written project, 5 points for in-class, panel presentation). After summarizing two or three scholarly research articles on the topic and/or region, you will outline your democratic measures, and use them to evaluate the country/topic. The written portion of the project should be 8-10 pages. Drafts of case study's Background and Literature Review sections are due in early April and should be submitted under the "Analyses and Assignments" Bb section. Late assignments will be penalized 2 points for every 6 hours after their deadline.

In mid-April, representatives from each group will share their results in a conference panel format during class. Other group members will prepare questions for the panel.

Extra credit (6 points= 4 EC attendance days, and 2 voluntary surveys)

I will randomly choose four "Redemption Fridays" in which your mere attendance earns you 1 EC point. Also, there are two voluntary surveys (1 point each). The surveys are part of an ongoing research project, take 10 minutes to complete, and are provided at the start and at the end of the semester.

Academic dishonesty

Plagiarism and cheating on essays and exams is dishonest, disrespectful, and lame. At a minimum, I will give students a zero on the assignment. Multiple or egregious violations will result in expulsion from class. In addition, ASU's Provost defines the academic integrity policy as follows: Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course

failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal. For more information, see <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>.

Accommodations for Disabilities

I am happy to accommodate any student with a disability registered with the Disability Resource Center. Please contact them and provide our course number and my email address.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Due dates are shown for assessments and assigned readings for books by Tocqueville, Dalton, and Leduc books, and a few readings available within our Bb site.

Democracy in America: Then and Now

Week 1

- M 1/11 Welcome and Syllabus review
- W 1/13 Tocqueville (democratic despotism): Volume II, Part IV, (pp.161-167)
- F 1/15 Tocqueville (social equality): Vol I, Author's Intro and Chs 1-2 (pp. 37-53)

Week 2

- M 1/18 No class--Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- W 1/20 Tocqueville (sovereignty): Vol I, Chs 3-6 (pp. 53-69)
- F 1/22 Tocqueville (tyranny of the majority): Vol I, Chs 7 & 8 (pp. 69-84)

Week 3

- M 1/25 Tocqueville (individualism): Vol II, Chs 15-20 (pp. 109-126)
- W 1/27 Tocqueville (Self-interest Well Understood): Vol II, Chs 21-25 (126-140)
- F 1/29 Guest speaker, The Honorable Jon Kyle

Week 4

- M 2/1 Tocqueville (gender) Vol II, Chs 26-29 (pp. 140-152)
- W 2/3 Tocqueville (democratic despotism): Volume II, Chs 33-34 (pp.163-170)
- F 2/5 **Exam 1 (online) –No Class (available on 2/5, 12:01am- 11:59pm)**

Measures of Democracy

Week 5

- M 2/8 Bb: Robert A. Dahl, "What Political Institutions Does Large Scale Democracy Require?" (Guiding questions 1-3)
- W 2/10 Bb: Robert A. Dahl, "What Political Institutions Does Large Scale Democracy Require?" (Guiding questions 4-6)
- F 2/12 **No class**

Week 6

- M 2/15 Bb: Philippe Schmitter & Terry Karl, "What Democracy is...and Is Not"
- W 2/17 Bb: Robert D. Putnam "Bowling Alone"

F 2/19 Bb: Thomas H. Sander and Robert D. Putnam "Still Bowling Alone?: The Post-9/11 Split"

Week 7

M 2/22 Bb: Dietlind Stolle and Marc Hooghe "Review Article: Inaccurate, Exceptional, One-Sided or Irrelevant?..." (1st half: pp. 149-159)

W 2/24 Bb: Stolle and Hooghe "Review Article..." (2nd half: pp. 159-167)

F 2/26 **Quiz 1 (online) -No Class (available on 2/26, 12:01am- 11:59pm)**

Week 8

--Case Study Topic Preferences Due on Monday in Bb, 2/29 (11:59pm)--

M 2/29 Dalton: Ch2 "The Nature of Mass Beliefs"

W 3/2 Dalton: Ch 3 "How We Participate"

F 3/4 No class—enjoy Spring Break

Week 9

SPRING BREAK- no classes

Week 10

M 3/14 Dalton: "Who Participates?"

W 3/16 Dalton: "Citizens and the Democratic Process"

Fri 3/18 Quiz 2 (online) -No Class (available on 3/18, 12:01am- 11:59pm)

Comparing Democracies

Week 11

M 3/21 LeDuc, Chs 1 and 2

W 3/23 LeDuc, Ch 3

F 3/25 No Class!

Week 12

M 3/28 LeDuc, Ch 4 (Guiding Questions 1-3)

W 3/30 LeDuc, Ch 4 (Guiding Questions 4-5)

F 4/1 LeDuc, Ch 6

--Drafts of Case Study Background and Literature Reviews due Friday, April 1st (11:59 pm)--

Week 13

M 4/4	LeDuc, Ch 9
W 4/6	LeDuc, Ch 10
F 4/8	Optional class for group Case Study meetings

Week 14

M 4/11	Case Study Presentations
W 4/13	Case Study Presentations
F 4/15	Case Study Presentations

-Written Case Studies Due on Monday, April 18th (11:59 pm)--

Week 15

M 4/18	Case Study Presentations
W 4/20	Case Study Presentations
F 4/22	Case Study Presentations

Week 16

M 4/25	Case Study Presentations
W 4/27	Case Study Presentations
F 4/29	Case Study Presentations

M/Tu 5/2-3 Exam 2 (available on 5/2, 12:01am; complete by 5/3, 11:59pm)