

DAM Syllabus (final)

Democracy Ancient and Modern

Spring 2019

Tues, Thurs 11.35-12.25 + sections Thurs 1.30pm and 4.30pm

Dēmokratia, *democratia*, democracy. What did this term mean to the ancient Greeks who coined it, to the Romans who borrowed it, to the early modern Europeans who discussed it—and what does it mean today? Who or what was the original *dēmos*, how did it rule, and how different is the interpretation of “rule by the people” that now predominates? Starting with the first attestations of *da-mo* in the 12th century BC and ending with Iceland’s recent attempt to crowdsource its constitution, this course offers a chronological exploration of the idea and practice of democracy intended to broaden our imaginative horizons with respect to what democracy has been, is, and could become. Grades will be awarded on the basis of participation in lecture and section (10%), an in-class midterm exam (20%), two papers (20/30%), and a final exam (20%).

1. Jan 15. Introduction.

2. Jan 17. Who or what was the *dēmos*?

Mycenaean Linear B texts PY Un 718, PY Ep 704

Homer, *Iliad* 2.1-490, 18.478-515

Laws from Dreros (Crete), Sparta, and Chios

[Aristotle], *Constitution of the Athenians* chs 2, 5-13, 20

Aristotle, *Politics* 3.1274b32-1275b21

3. Jan 22. *Kratos* and other forms of rule

Hesiod, *Theogony* 383-403

Aeschylus, *Suppliants* selections

[Aeschylus], *Prometheus Bound* 1-87

[Aristotle], *Constitution of the Athenians* chs 21-28

4. Jan 24. Rule through the assembly

[Xenophon], *Constitution of the Athenians* ch.1.1-8 (c. 425?)

Euripides, *Suppliants* 399-461 (423)

Thucydides, selection of assembly speeches and extract on the Four Hundred (events 431-411, written later but before c. 400)

[Aristotle], *Constitution of the Athenians* chs 29-41

5. Jan 29. Rule through the courts

Herodotus 1.96-100, 3.80 (c. 425)

Aristophanes, *Knights* (424) and *Wasps* (422) extracts

Plato, *Apology* (i.e. Socrates' self-defence: dramatic date 399, written later)

Demosthenes, extract from *Against Meidias* (c. 349)

Dinarchus, *Against Demosthenes* extract (323)

[Aristotle], *Constitution of the Athenians* chs 42-66

6. Jan 31. Aristotle on *dēmokratia*
Aristotle, *Politics* II.1273b-74a, III.1278b-82a, 1286a-b, IV.1289b-93a, VI.1316b-21a.
7. Feb 5. Ancient Greek democracy: recap and discussion
8. Feb 7. The Roman Republic I
Livy, extracts from books 1 and 2
9. Feb 12. The Roman Republic II
Polybius, extracts from book 6
QT Cicero, Essay on running for consul (64 BC)
Short passages - various authors
10. Feb 14. In-class midterm.
11. Feb 19. Detecting “democracy” in the middle ages
Augustine, extract
Manegold of Lautenbach, *Ad Gebhardum Liber* extract (c. 1085)
Magna Carta (1215)
Thomas Aquinas, *On Kingship* I.1-7 (1267)
Declaration of Arbroath (1320)
Marsilius of Padua, *Defensor Pacis* extract (1324)
12. Feb 21. Machiavelli
Discourses on Livy, extracts (c. 1517)
13. Feb 26. Hobbes
Hobbes, *On the Citizen* (1642): Introductory material and chs. 1, 5-7 and 10
14. Feb 28. The English Revolution
An Agreement of the People (1647 and 1649 versions)
Putney debates (1647), extracts
15. Mar 5. Locke and the “Glorious Revolution”
English Bill of Rights (1689)
Second Treatise extracts (1689)
16. Mar 7. The American Revolution
Declaration of Independence (1776)
US Constitution (drafted 1787)
Samuel Bryan, 'Centinel I' (1787)
The Federalist #10, 51, 55, 57
Noah Webster, 'On the Absurdity of a Bill of Rights' (1787)
US Bill of Rights (1789)

17. Mar 26. Rousseau and the sovereignty-government distinction
Social Contract (1762), extracts

18. Mar 28. French Revolution and Conspiracy of the Equals
Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (1789)
Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (1793)
The Constitution of 1793
Gracchus Babeuf, Prospectus for *Le Tribun du Peuple* (1795)
Philippe Buonarroti, Fragment of a Projected Economic Decree (1828, based on discussions of 1796)

19. Apr 2. The politics of representation
Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792), Chapter 9
Benjamin Constant, 'Liberty of the Ancients Compared to that of the Moderns' (1816)
Chartist petition of 1839 (as presented to the House of Commons)
Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions (1848)

20. Apr 4. Marx and Engels
Karl Marx, 'Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*' (1843), extract
Karl Marx, 'On the Jewish Question' (1843), extract
Friedrich Engels, 'Review of *Capital*, Vol. 1', in *Demokratisches Wochenblatt*, Nos. 12 and 13, March 21 and 28, 1868
Karl Marx, 'The Civil War in France' (1871), Engels' 1891 introduction and part III

21. Apr 9. J.S. Mill
Mill, *On Representative Government* chs. 3, 5-8 (1861)

22. Apr 11. The Russian Revolution
Eduard Bernstein, *The Preconditions of Socialism* (1899), ch. 3, part (c)
Rosa Luxemburg, *Social Reform or Revolution* (1899), Introduction, ch. 1, ch. 7
V.I. Lenin, 'The Democratic Tasks of the Revolutionary Proletariat' (1906)
Rosa Luxemburg, *The Russian Revolution* (1918), chs. 1, 5, 8
V.I. Lenin, "'Democracy" and Dictatorship" (1918)

23. Apr 16. "Elitist" versus "participatory" democracy
Texts: Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy* extracts (1942)
Port Huron statement (1962)
Carole Pateman, *Participation and Democratic Theory* (1970), extract

24. Apr 18. Discussion of paper topics

25. Apr 23. Democracy present and future
Sheldon Wolin, "Norm and Form" (1993)
Hélène Landemore, "Inclusive Constitution-Making: The Icelandic Experiment" (2015)
Richard Tuck, "Active and passive citizens" (2019)

26. Apr 25. Conclusion

Expectations

- Attendance at all lectures and sections is required.
- I'd prefer no laptops or other electronic devices in class. If you can, please use paper for note-taking.
- I'd like to see everyone for a 15 minute meeting at some point in the first 3 weeks of the semester (preferably in office hours, but if you can't make it then we can set up another time). A sign-up sheet will be available in class.

Evaluation

- Participation in lecture/section (10%)
- In-class midterm exam on Feb 14 (20%)
- One 6-8 pp. paper due Mar 8 (20%)
- One 8-10 pp. paper due Apr 26 (30%)
- Final exam, May 3 WLH 114 (20%)

Texts

All texts will be available on the course website. I've used publicly available editions where possible and made my own annotations, which I hope you'll find useful. I recommend printing the texts and bringing them to class with you. If this is difficult, let me know and I'll bring copies to class a week ahead of time.

Plagiarism

Yale faculty are required to make a statement about academic integrity on their syllabi, so here is mine. I take my responsibilities as a teacher and researcher very seriously, and I will hold you to the same standard. Passing off others' work as your own, even inadvertently, is a betrayal of your position as a member of the scholarly community and moreover prevents you from developing and refining your own views of the material we study, which I take to be the point of your education. Yale's policy on plagiarism is clear; if you have any doubts or queries about it or about how to make appropriate use of others' ideas, ask me, and see <http://ctl.yale.edu/writing/using-sources>.