

Dr. Jon Cowans, jonco58@aol.com
Class meets: MW 6-7:20, Bradley 313

Office: Conklin 305; 973 353-3893
Office hours: MW 3:30-4, Wed. 5:30-6

The History of Democracy: 21:510:302, Sec. 01 (28494) Spring 2020

This course examines the history of democracy from its origins in ancient Greece through its development in Europe and the United States from the eighteenth century to recent times. Students will develop skills in areas such as critical thinking, writing, oral communication, and reading comprehension and retention.

READINGS

Course reader, available **only** at PortaPrint, 33 Halsey St., 973 622-1828

GRADING

Students are bound by the university's academic integrity policy, which appears here:
<http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/office-dean-student-affairs/academic-integrity-policy>.

TESTS: There will be a midterm on Mon. March 2, and a comprehensive final exam Mon. May 11 6:20-9:20pm. The format for these tests will be a series of short essays (1/2 to 1 page).

PAPER/PRESENTATIONS: You will write a paper of 3 to 5 pages double-spaced, due May 4. You have three options: 1) You may write about a successful example of past citizen activism, describing and analyzing how activists succeeded. 2) You may choose a country (other than the USA) and analyze how democracy has fared there in recent times. 3) You may focus on a single issue or event in the history of democracy in the USA. All topics require approval. Late papers lose 5 points per day. You will also give a brief informal oral presentation on your paper, worth half of the grade for this assignment.

LECTURE QUESTIONS: After each lecture, you must hand in one or two brief questions or comments on the material. Each absence lowers this score by five points; time missed for coming late or leaving early is added up; eighty minutes equals one absence. To receive credit, your card must have a question or comment on the material. An excused absence requires written evidence of a valid reason, and all excuses must be in by the end of the final exam. Your overall course grade will fall by five points for each unexcused absence starting with the fourth. Anyone who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this course and should withdraw.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Everyone is required to pay attention and to speak regularly in class, either asking questions or making relevant comments. The grade reflects both the quantity and quality of participation. You will get separate scores for the two halves of the semester, and your final score will average the two. Using electronic devices (texting, etc.) in class and/or repeatedly leaving the room during class will lower your score. Laptops are not allowed in this class.

READING QUIZZES: Several times, there will be unannounced quizzes on the readings assigned for that day. The lowest grade on the quizzes will not count.

Lecture questions	5%
Class participation	10%
Paper/Presentations.....	15%
Reading quizzes	15%
Midterm	25%
Final exam	30%
	100%

Wed. 1-22: Introduction

Mon. 1-27: Defining Democracy

Evan Durbin, "The Essence of Democracy" (R-1)
Ernest Barker, "Democracy and Deliberation" (R-2)
John Dewey, "The Keynote of Democracy" (R-3)

Wed. 1-29: Democracy in Ancient Greece

A Summary of Athenian Democracy (R-4)
"Democracy in the Time of Pericles" (R-5)
Pericles, "The Funeral Speech" (R-6)

Mon. 2-3: Athenians on Democracy

Aristotle, "The Politics" (R-7)
Athenian Views of Democracy (R-8)
Plato, "The Republic" (R-9)

Wed. 2-5: The Athenian Public Sphere

"The Polis" (R-10)
"Poetic Drama and the Popular Audience" (R-11)
"Drama, Political Rhetoric & Athenian Democracy" (R-12)

Mon. 2-10: Ancient Rome

Polybius, "The Roman Constitution" (R-13)
"Roman Politics" (R-14)
"What Sort of Democracy?" (R-15)

Wed. 2-12: The Rise of Parliamentary Government in England

Origins of the English Parliament (R-16)
G. P. Gooch, "English Democratic Ideas" (R-17)
The Putney Debates (R-18)
The English Bill of Rights (R-19)

Mon. 2-17: Enlightenment Political Thought

John Locke, "Second Treatise on Civil Government" (R-20)
"The Philosophes and the People" (R-21)
Edmund Burke, "Political Principles" (R-22)

Wed. 2-19: Public Opinion and the Enlightenment Public Sphere

"Public Opinion as Political Invention" (R-23)
"The Birth of Public Opinion" (R-24)
"Newssheets" (R-25)

Mon. 2-24: The American Revolution

Thomas Jefferson, Political Writings (R-26)
"Democracy and the American Revolution" (R-27)

Wed. 2-26: The Early American Republic

John Adams, "Who Are the People?" (R-28)
James Madison, "Property and Suffrage" (R-29)
"Was There Ever a Public Sphere?" (R-30)

Mon. 3-2: Midterm

Wed. 3-4: Open Session

Mon. 3-9: The French Revolution, Part 1

Emmanuel-Joseph Sieyès, "What is the Third Estate?" (R-31)
The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Constitution of 1791 (R-32)
Maximilien Robespierre, "On the Right to Vote" (R-33)

Wed. 3-11: The French Revolution, Part 2

Jean-Paul Marat, "The Objectives of the Revolution Completely Unattained" (R-34)
Maximilien Robespierre, "Speech at the King's Trial" (R-35)
The Propagandist Decrees (R-36)
"Women and the Public Sphere in the French Revolution" (R-37)

SPRING BREAK

Mon. 3-23: Democracy in Nineteenth-Century Britain

The Reform Bills of 1832 & 1867 (R-38)
The Great Charter (R-39)
John Stuart Mill, "Political Writings" (R-40)

Wed. 3-25: Democracy and the Rise of the Masses

Charter of the Socialist Party of France (R-41)
Mikhail Bakunin, "The Illusion of Universal Suffrage" (R-42)
Gustave Le Bon, "Psychology of Crowds" (R-43)
Valenti Almirall, "Spain Such as it Is" (R-44)

Mon. 3-30: Women's Suffrage

Hubertine Auclert, "La Citoyenne" (R-45)
Emmeline Pankhurst, "Why We Are Militant" (R-46)
Almroth E. Wright, "The Unexpurgated Case Against Woman Suffrage" (R-47)
Spanish Parliamentary Debates on Women's Suffrage (R-48)

Wed. 4-1: Critics of Democracy between the World Wars

Walter Lippmann, "Public Opinion" (R-49)
José Ortega y Gasset, "The Revolt of the Masses" (R-50)
Adolf Hitler, "On Democracy" (R-51)

Mon. 4-6: American Populism in the Twentieth Century

"Father Coughlin and Huey Long" (R-52)
"The Cold War Right and Joseph McCarthy" (R-53)
"Ronald Reagan" (R-54)

Wed. 4-8: Public Opinion and Opinion Polling

George Gallup & Saul Forbes Rae, "The Pulse of Democracy" (R-55)

"Polling and the Transformation of Public Opinion" (R-56)

Mon. 4-13: Critics of Contemporary Democracy

Jean-Paul Sartre, "Elections, a Trap for Fools" (R-57)

"Democracy for the Few" (R-58)

Wed. 4-15: The Contemporary Public Sphere

"The Public Sphere in the Twentieth Century" (R-59)

"Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital" (R-60)

Mon. 4-20: Contemporary Issues

French Debates on the Women-in-Parliament Law (R-61)

"The Rise of Illiberal Democracy" (R-62)

"Conditions for a Successful Mideast Democracy" (R-63)

Ansar al-Sunnah, "Statement on Democracy in Iraq" (R-64)

Wed. 4-22: Presentations

Mon. 4-27: Presentations

Wed. 4-29: Presentations

Mon. 5-4: Presentations

Final Exam: Mon. May 11, 6:20-9:20pm

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please contact Kate Torres at [\(973\)353-5375](tel:9733535375) or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting odsnewark@rutgers.edu.