

Mark Brown  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Government  
CSUS

Office: Tahoe Hall 3123  
Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:30,  
and by appt.  
Office Tel.: 916-278-7866  
[mbrown@csus.edu](mailto:mbrown@csus.edu)  
<http://www.csus.edu/indiv/b/brownm>

## **Democratic Theory**

GOVT 115, MW 12:00 – 1:15, AMD 252

Fall 2004

### **Description and Goals**

This course offers an introduction to questions of democratic theory and politics, emphasizing the practical contexts of contemporary philosophical debates. Although we will draw on some historical sources, the focus will be on current dilemmas of democracy. To get a clear sense of what is at stake in these dilemmas, we will read works by advocates of different forms and theories of democracy, as well as their critics. This approach serves two basic aims: first, to help students develop a clear understanding of the historical sources, conceptual logic, and practical implications of such key democratic concepts as liberty, equality, participation, representation, deliberation, and group difference; second, to enhance students' ability to analyze some of the basic challenges facing contemporary democracy, including cultural diversity, global capitalism, and technological change.

### **Course Texts**

There will be a Course Reader available for purchase (readings marked with an asterisk below). In addition, the following required books are available in the campus bookstore.

- Robert A. Dahl, *Democracy and Its Critics*. Yale University Press, 1989.
- Judith N. Shklar, *American Citizenship: The Quest for Inclusion*. Harvard University Press, 1991.
- Amy Gutmann, *Identity in Democracy*, Princeton University Press, 2004.
- Martha Nussbaum, ed. Joshua Cohen, *For Love of Country? Debating the Limits of Patriotism*. Beacon Press, 2002.

### **Requirements and Grading**

This course will be taught as a discussion seminar, which means that you must come to class having completed and thought critically about the assigned reading. Like democracy itself, the success of this course depends on each person's engagement! You will also be asked to write two short papers (4-5 pages) and one final paper (8-10 pages). For the final paper, a rough draft of 3-5 pages is also required. Rough drafts will be collected, graded pass/fail, and then distributed back to the class for anonymous peer review—that is, you will receive suggestions for improving your paper from one of your classmates. Peer review comments will also be graded pass/fail. Paper topics, grading criteria, and guidelines for peer review will be distributed in class and will be available on my website. I strongly encourage you to meet with me during office hours to discuss each of your papers *before* you hand them in.

I will take attendance on randomly selected days throughout the semester. I will also occasionally ask you to submit a short in-class writing exercise or complete a surprise quiz on

the day's reading. These in-class participation assignments will be grade pass/fail. You may miss one class (or receive one failing participation grade) without penalty. After that, your attendance and participation grade will be the percentage of days you were recorded present and participating.

Final grades will be calculated according to the traditional scale: A > 93%...A- > 90%...B+ > 88%...B > 83%...B- > 80%...etc. Students who have a serious and *appropriately documented* excuse to miss a class, paper due date, or exam should contact me (beforehand or immediately afterward) to arrange a way to makeup the work. However, there will be no makeup assignments for attendance/participation/quizzes. There also will be no extra-credit assignments. The grades will be calculated as follows:

Attendance, participation, quizzes: 20%

Two short papers: 20% each

Paper Draft/Peer Review: 10%

Final paper: 30%

### **Additional Matters**

Your feedback on the course schedule, classroom discussions, and any other aspect of the course is always welcome. *If you are having trouble with any aspect of the course, or if you would just like to talk over the material, I strongly encourage you to either stop by during my office hours or make an appointment to see me.*

If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to the CSUS Office of Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD), Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester.

Finally, it should go without saying that all the work you submit for this class must be your own. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism, please ask me or consult the library plagiarism information website at <http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353>. Plagiarism will be punished in proportion to the severity of the case, but any plagiarism is likely to result in a failing grade for the course and may lead to additional administrative penalties, including expulsion from the University.

### **Tentative Course Schedule**

Readings marked with an asterisk (\*) are either in the course reader or on the course website.

#### **I. ANCIENT DEMOCRACY AND MODERN DEMOCRACY**

Aug. 30 Introduction

Sept. 1 Dahl, chaps. 1-2.

\* Pericles' Funeral Oration

Sept. 8 Dahl, chaps. 15-16.

\* Giovanni Sartori, "Greek Democracy and Modern Democracy," in *The Theory of Democracy Revisited*, chap. 10.

Sept. 13 Shklar, *American Citizenship*, pp. 1-62

Sept. 15 Shklar, *American Citizenship*, pp. 63-101

## II. CRITICS OF DEMOCRACY

- Sept. 20 \* Robert Paul Wolff, *In Defense of Anarchism*, pp. 69-82.  
 Sept. 22 Dahl, chap. 3.
- Sept. 27 \* Joseph Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*, pp. 250-273  
 Sept. 29 Dahl, chaps. 4-5, 19, pp. 52-79, 265-279

FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE FRIDAY, OCT. 1, 5:00 PM

## III. REASON, DELIBERATION, AND DEMOCRACY

- Oct. 4 Dahl, chaps. 12-13  
 Oct. 6 \*Habermas, "The Public Sphere: An Encyclopedia Article (1964)," *New German Critique* 1:3 (Fall, 1974), 49-55.
- Oct. 11 \*James S. Fishkin and Robert C. Luskin, "Deliberation Day," *Journal of Political Philosophy* 10, no. 2 (2002): 129-152.  
 \*Richard E. Sclove, "Town Meetings on Technology: Consensus Conferences as Democratic Participation," in *Science, Technology, and Democracy*, ed. Daniel Lee Kleinman, 33-47 (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2000).
- Oct. 13 \*Graham Smith and Corinne Wales, "Citizens' Juries and Deliberative Democracy," *Political Studies* 48:1 (2000): 51-65.
- Oct. 18 \*Cass R. Sunstein, "The Law of Group Polarization," *Journal of Political Philosophy* 10, no. 2 (2002): 175-195.  
 \*Ian Shapiro, "Optimal Deliberation?" *Journal of Political Philosophy* 10, no. 2 (2002): 196-211.
- Oct. 20 \*Michael Walzer, "Deliberation, and What Else?" in *Deliberative Politics: Essays on Democracy and Disagreement*, ed. Stephen Macedo, 58-69 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999).  
 \*Lynn M. Sanders, "Against Deliberation," *Political Theory* 25, no. 3 (1997).

SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE FRIDAY, OCT. 22, 5:00 PM

## IV. IDENTITY, DIVERSITY, AND DEMOCRACY

- Oct. 25 Dahl, chaps. 14, 20-21, pp. 193-209, 280-308.  
 Oct. 27 Gutmann, *Identity in Democracy*, Intro.
- Nov. 1 Gutmann, *Identity in Democracy*, chap. 1.  
 Nov. 3 Gutmann, *Identity in Democracy*, chap. 2
- Nov. 8 Gutmann, *Identity in Democracy*, chap. 3  
 Nov. 10 Gutmann, *Identity in Democracy*, chap. 4 and Conclusion.

## V. COSMOPOLITANISM, GLOBALIZATION, AND DEMOCRACY

- Nov. 15 Dahl, chap. 22  
 \* U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Nov. 17 \* Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993.  
 \* Ronald Inglehart and Pippa Norris, "The True Clash of Civilizations," *Foreign Policy*, March/April, 2003.  
 \* Fareed Zakaria, "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy," *Foreign Affairs* Nov/Dec. 1997.  
 \* President George W. Bush, Remarks at the 20th Anniversary of the National Endowment for Democracy, Washington, D.C., Nov. 6, 2003
- Nov. 22 Essays by Nussbaum, Appiah, Barber, Bok in *For Love of Country?*, pp. ix-xiv, 2-17, 21-44.
- Nov. 24 Essays by Butler, Falk, Glazer, Gutman in *For Love of Country?*, pp. 45-71.
- Nov. 29 Essays by Himmelfarb, McConnell, Pinsky, Putnam, Scarry, in *For Love of Country?*, pp. 72-110.
- Dec. 1 Essays by Sen, Taylor, Wallerstein, Walzer, Nussbaum in *For Love of Country?*, pp. 111-144  
 DRAFT OF FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS
- Dec. 6 \*Amartya Sen, "Human Rights and Asian Values," *The New Republic*, July 14/21, 1997, pp. 33-40.  
 \* Margaret Ng, "Why Asia Needs Democracy," *Journal of Democracy* 8.2 (1997): 10-23.
- Dec. 8 \* Bilahari Kausikan, "Governance that Works," *Journal of Democracy* 8.2 (1997): 24-34.  
 \* Joseph Chan, "An Alternative View," *Journal of Democracy* 8.2 (1997): 35-48.  
 \*Catherine Lu, "The One and Many Faces of Cosmpolitanism," *Journal of Political Philosophy* 8:2 (2000): 244-267.
- Dec. 17 FINAL PAPER DUE DEC. 17, 5:00 PM