

PHIL 3314 / POLS 3314: Democracy and Deliberation

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Adsett
Office: Online – Skype, Blackboard Collaborate, or E-Mail
Office Hours: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Local NS Time
Thursdays, and Fridays
or
By appointment
E-Mail: daniel.adsett@msvu.ca
Skype: adsett.daniel@gmail.com
live:.cid.53b3ba9c64c5b7c6
Class Time: 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM
Location: Blackboard Collaborate
Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays
Dates: 11 January 2021 – 15 April 2021

Required Texts:

Texts are available through the library or online for free. See the **Readings – Where to Find Them** document on **Moodle**.

Description:

This course is grounded on the assumption that democracy involves communication, discussion, and deliberation between individuals and groups with varying commitments. The first half of the course will examine historical democratic practices while the second half will focus on more theoretical and contemporary ideas of democratic engagement. Throughout, we will consider some issues that arise with democratic practices such as the tyranny of the majority, the relation between democracy and imperialism, populism, and the character of informed or qualified citizens.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester, each student will have . . .

- An understanding of the general issues surrounding the conditions of democratic governance
- An acquaintance with some major theories of democratic engagement
- An understanding of how to apply philosophical analyses to political questions
- An ability to construct arguments defending a moral position regarding political issues

Grading:

Each student will be graded on (1) ten online contributions, (2) one mid-term paper, (3) one presentation, and (4) one final paper. Each online contribution will consist of a response to the latest student presentation on the week's secondary reading and will be worth 30 points in total. The mid-term paper will be worth 20 points, the presentation, to be completed live or with a video recording, will be worth 30 points, and the final paper will be worth 40 points. Further information on how to complete the presentation, papers, and online posts can be found in the **Guidelines** section of this course's **Moodle** site. For policies concerning missed quizzes, presentations, or a late final paper, see the **Policies for Late Work and Extra Credit** below. In all, each student's final grade will be out of 120:

Online Posts:	30
Presentation:	30
Mid-Term Paper:	20
Final Paper:	40
Total:	120

Important Dates:

Last Day to Withdraw: January 18th

Mid-Term Paper Due: February 23rd, 11:59 PM Local NS Time

Final Paper Due: TBD – schedule for final exams to be released in February

Attendance Policy:

Because this is an online course and students will potentially be dispersed across different time zones, showing up to the weekly Blackboard Collaborate meeting will not be mandatory. That being said, I strongly encourage everyone to attend. During each meeting we will review the readings, talk about the articles, discuss our online posts, have our presentations, and get to know each other.

Policies for Late Work and Extra Credit:

Because assignments will be handed in on Moodle, there will be no excuse for late assignments. Presentations missed for unexcused reasons will not be able to be given at an alternative time unless arrangements are made beforehand. Mid-term papers handed in late will lose three points per day late. For example, if mid-term is handed in on February 25th, it will not be able to receive more than 24/30. If the final paper is submitted late, one point will be deducted for every three hours it is late. For example, if the final paper is due at midnight on April 20th and it is submitted at 6:00 am on April 21st. It will receive a maximum grade of 38/40. For work towards bonus marks, students must contact me before February 15th.

Academic Dishonesty:

University regulations on plagiarism and cheating and other academic offenses will be strictly enforced. These regulations including applicable procedures and penalties are detailed on pages 33-35 of the Academic Calendar (<http://www.msvu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/RO-2020-2021-Undergraduate-Academic-Calendar-Aug-20.pdf>). Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to the following:

Cheating

1. Submitting the work of another as one's own
2. Obtaining or attempting to obtain answer keys or questions for an exam, test, or quiz
3. Using unauthorized electronic devices during an exam, test, or quiz
4. Providing answers for an exam, test, or quiz to assist another student
5. Providing one's own work for another to use
6. Completing another student's assignment for him/her or having one's own assignment completed by another
7. Using paper writing companies and other third parties to complete assignments

Plagiarism

1. Using the ideas of another without properly citing or sourcing them
2. Putting forward the ideas of another as if they are one's own

Academic Fraud

1. Submitting material already used in another course or at another institution
2. Buy or selling answers to assignments, exams, tests, or quizzes

Correct Use of Language:

Correct use of language is one of the criteria included in the evaluation of all written assignments.

Disability/Special Needs:

Students who have a disability and who require academic accommodations must register with Accessibility Services (www.msvu.ca/accessibilityservices) as early as possible in order to receive accommodations.

On Research with Humans:

Students who conduct research involving human participants must have their research reviewed in accordance with the MSVU Policies and Procedures for Ethics Review of Research Involving Humans before starting the research. Check with your course professor or Chair of the department about proper procedure.

Accommodation of Religious Observance:

Requests for accommodation of specific religious or spiritual observance must be presented in writing to the instructor within the first two weeks of class.

Acknowledgement of Indigenous Land Use:

Even though this course will be held online, we need to remember that the physical infrastructure of Mount Saint Vincent University that makes this course possible exists on unceded and unpurchased land of the Mi'kmaq nation. Let's remember this debt we owe to the Indigenous peoples of the Maritimes as we reflect, in this course, on questions democratic and collaborative governance.

Schedule:

Dates		Topics	Primary Reading	Secondary Reading	Assignments	
January	12	Introduction				
	14		"Three Normative Models of Democracy" – Habermas			
	19	Deliberative Democracy	Chapter 1 – <i>Why Deliberative Democracy?</i> – Gutmann and Thompson			
	21					
	26	Ancient Democracy	Book 4 – <i>Politics</i> – Aristotle	"Democracy and Empire" – Rhodes		
	28					
February	2	Medieval Democracy	"Medieval Origins of Constitutional Government in the West" – Downing	"Nederman, Gerson, Conciliar Theory and Constitutionalism: <i>Sed Contra</i> " – Oakley		
	4					
	9	Early Modern Democracy	Chapter 2 – <i>The Social Contract</i> – Rousseau	"The Political Foundations of Modern Economic Growth" – Clark		
	11					
	16	Winter Study Break				
	18					
	23	Democracy in America I	Part II, Chapters 7-8 – <i>Democracy in America</i> – de Tocqueville	"Tocqueville's Tyranny of the Majority Reconsidered" – Maletz	Mid-Term Papers Due	
	25					
March	2	Democracy in America II	Part II, Chapter 9 – <i>Democracy in America</i> – de Tocqueville	"Constitution and Law" – Samito		
	4					
	9	Democracy and Capitalism I	Chapters 1-3 – <i>Democracy Incorporated</i> – Wolin	"Fugitive Democracy" – Wolin		
	11					
	16	Democracy and Capitalism II	Chapters 12-13 – <i>Democracy Incorporated</i> – Wolin	"American Nightmare" – Brown		
	18					
	23	Democracy and Capabilities I	Chapters 15-16 – <i>The Idea of Justice</i> – Sen	"The Idea of Public Reason Revisited" – Rawls		
	25					
30	Democracy and Capabilities II	Chapter 17-18 – <i>The Idea of Justice</i> – Sen	"Education and Democratic Citizenship" – Nussbaum			
1						
April	6	India	"India's Democracy at 70" – Varshney, Jaffrelot, Tillin, Sridharan, Ramanathan, Ramanathan, Sen, Mitra, and Ganguly	"Fragile Hegemony" – Sinha		
	8					
	13	Brexit	"A Republic of Discussion: Habermas at Ninety" – Guess "The Populist Challenge to Liberal Democracy" – Galston			
	15					
	TBD	Final Papers Due at TBD				

Additional Notes:**MSVU POLITICS YAMMER GROUP**

We have an online discussion forum about political issues. This is a fun way to connect with your classmates and faculty, especially during social distancing! If you would like to join the group, please send an email to: Matthew.MacLellan2@msvu.ca.

MARIAL MOSHER CANADIAN STUDIES SCHOLARSHIPS

As a result of the generous donation from the late Dr. Marial Mosher, students taking Canadian Studies at MSVU are now eligible for three new scholarship opportunities: the Marial Mosher Canadian Studies Scholarship; the Marial Mosher Canadian Studies Travel Award; and the Marial Mosher Canadian Studies Award. Awarded on the recommendation of the Department of Political and Canadian Studies, first preference is to students majoring in Canadian Studies (CANA); next preference is to students with a Canadian Studies (CANA) Concentration; third preference is students with a Canadian Studies (CANA) minor and fourth preference to students with a minimum of two units of study in courses with a CANA designation. There may be more than one recipient. Full descriptions of each award will be posted on Moodle.

BRONFMAN AWARD

Through the support of the Bronfman family, this award provides partial course tuition and full travel costs for a one week in Ottawa, for a student taking Canadian Studies. It is designed to promote Canadian understanding by providing the recipients with the opportunity to realize, physically and academically, exposure to a wider experience and knowledge of Canadian life and to share that knowledge with others. This scholarship is open to all current students who have taken, or are currently enrolled in CANA 1101, 1102, 3301, 3305, or 4401. The week in Ottawa is taken during the February break period. Recipients not only get to enjoy the activities of Winterlude, the exhibitions at the National Gallery, Museum of Civilization and Museum of Science and Technology, they also spend a day shadowing a Member of Parliament, another day following the activities of the Senate and a third day visiting the Supreme Court and observing the court in session. The activities for the week are organized by the co-ordinator of the Canadian Studies program, Dr. Tammy Findlay, with an eye to the particular interests of the award recipient. The deadline for applications is October 15.

Should travel not be possible due to social distancing, we will offer an alternative