This course is an intensive critical survey of difficulties involved in thinking about democracy. In particular we will take up two related topics. We will assess whether and, if so, how democracy might be normatively justified. And we will examine the vicissitudes of establishing and operating democratic institutions. Although prior course work in political theory may prove helpful, I do not expect students to have such a background. The only prerequisite is a willingness to work hard and to confront head on some important, difficult political issues.

This course is not for the faint-hearted. First, the reading assignments are difficult and heavy - they are not drawn from pre-digested textbook presentations. It is imperative that you the students keep up with the reading. Writing assignments draw explicitly and extensively on the assigned readings. Second, class meetings will combine lecture and discussion. I will regularly solicit student questions and comments on the assigned reading. From this it follows both that class attendance is not optional and that I expect students to be prepared to participate actively. While the bulk of your grade will be based directly on your performance on written assignments, at the margins your grade will reflect your attendance and participation. Furthermore, you certainly will find it difficult to do well on written assignments if you do not attend class. If you need to miss class please be prepared to explain why.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS**

The first, most important point is that assignments must be submitted on time. You have more than enough time to prepare the assignments. *I will not accept late assignments. So please take note of the due dates specified below.* If for any reason you anticipate problems getting in an assignment on time please speak with me before it is distributed so that we can make alternative arrangements. There are two written assignments. Each will cover material from the assigned readings and class lectures and discussion. You can anticipate having to write 10-12 typewritten pages on both the mid-term and final. For grading purposes they will be weighted equally.

*Assignment #1:* I will distribute a take-home mid-term in class on Tuesday October 9th and is due in class on Thursday October 18th. This assignment will cover material from the first half of the course.

*Assignment #2:* I will distribute a take-home final exam in class on Thursday December 6th. It is due in my office on Tuesday December 18th at noon. It will cover the second half of the course but will also require that you connect this material to themes discussed in the first half of the course.
REQUIRED READINGS

Books (marked *) are available at the University Bookstore. A few of the remaining readings are available on the web and I have indicated where you might find them. The rest are on two-hour Reserve at the Library. Given the class size, this may create some bottlenecks. So please plan ahead and be considerate of other students. We will read the assigned material roughly in the order that I list it here. I will alert you to where we are on the list as the course progresses.


[Ch. 4 - "Women & Consent," pp. 71-89].


Review 86:8-23. (Available online via JSTOR).


