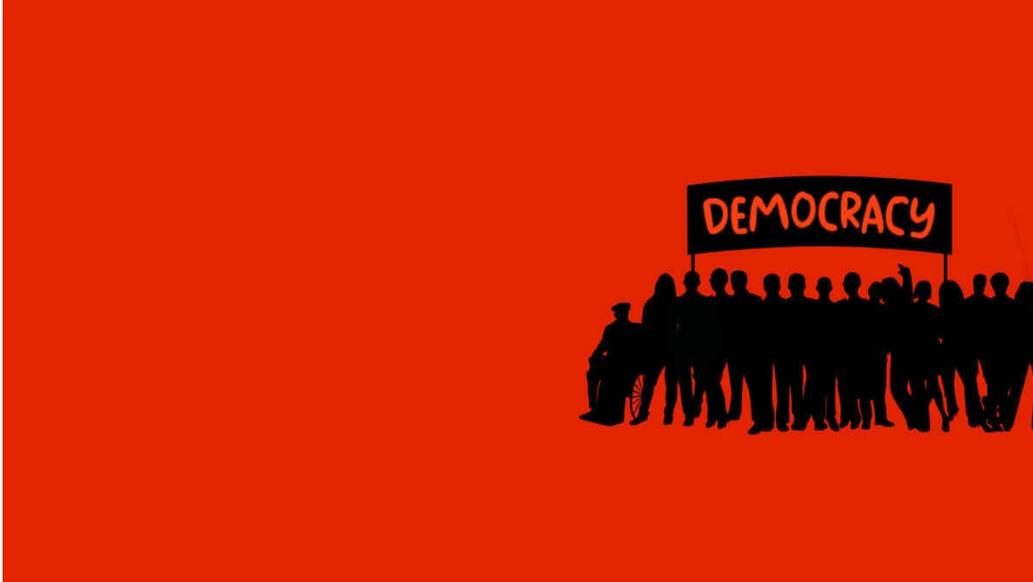


Democratic Theory: Classical and Critical Perspectives

Thursdays from 6 pm to 8:45 pm, Spring 2024, SH 241 (in-person)

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Western democracy goes relatively unquestioned. Like me, you probably believe that democracy is the best political regime there is. But why do we believe that? What is it that makes democracy the unsurpassable horizon of contemporary political philosophy? What valuable things does it allow us to do as humans? And perhaps most importantly, should we be confident that democracy is a political regime that will help us solve pressing social issues such as massive inequalities generated by capitalism, structural racism, and the environmental crisis?

This course is an introduction to the philosophical theory of democracy. Weekly topics will include:

- What Can Ancient Greece Teach Us About Contemporary Democracy?
- Philosophical Justifications of Democracy
- Democracy, Capitalism and Inequality
- Democracy and Populism
- Democracy, Inclusion, and Cultural Diversity
- Agonistic Democracy
- Democracy, Race, and Racism
- Deliberative and Participatory Democracy
- Democracy and the Environmental Crisis
- Indigenous Perspectives on Democracy

Weekly meetings will include student presentations, short lectures, small group discussions, and large group discussions. I commit to making all reading materials freely available on Canvas.