

Introduction to Political Philosophy (80135)
Robert Cavalier, PhD¹

As an introductory course, we will seek to trace out the historical and philosophical dimensions of the *polis* from its origins in Ancient Greece to its current manifestation in present-day society. Special emphasis will be placed on the concept and practice of "democracy."

Outline

The Idea of Democracy (Cavalier/Ketcham)
 The Intellectual History of Democracy
 The Concepts of Democracy
 Models of Democracy

The Concepts and Problems of Political Philosophy (Kymlicka)

Applied Political Philosophy (Fishkin)
 Deliberative Democracy and Deliberative Polls

Epilogue: The Law of Peoples (Rawls)

8/25	Introduction to the Course	Fishkin CH1
8/27	The Ancient World: Plato through Cicero and Augustine	Cavalier
9/1	Medieval Period up to the Renaissance: Alfarabi and Aquinas up to Machiavelli	Cavalier
9/3	The Modern Period: Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau	Cavalier
9/8	The Federalist Papers	Cavalier/ Fishkin Federalist/AntiFederalist Debates CH 2
9/10	The Philosophy of the Constitution	Ketchman: Parts II and III
9/15	19th and 20 th Centuries: Bentham and Mill up to Dewey	Cavalier
9/17	Invited Guest: Anthony Infanti (University of Pittsburgh Law School)t	Infanti/Constitution Day/ Draft of Papers due
9/22	Justifications for Democracy	Cavalier
9/24	Political Frameworks; Two Models of Democracy	Cavalier /Papers due
9/26	Special Session	<i>A Deliberative Loop on the University's Guiding Principle Statement on University Culture 12:30am -3:00pm</i>
9/29	PBS Video on Election Day	
10/1	Citizenship Theory	Kymlicka CH 7
10/6	Rawls, Dworkin	Kymlicka: Liberal Equality
10/8	Rawls, Dworkin	Liberal Equality continued; <i>A Deliberative Loop on America's Global Role (4:30-6:30pm)</i>
10/13	Nozick	Kymlicka: Libertarianism
10/15	Review	Berlin's Two Concepts of Liberty

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10/20		In class Exam
10/22	Taylor	Kymlicka: Communitarianism
10/27	Makinnon, Gilligan, etc.	Kymlicka: Feminism
10/29	Review	
11/3		In class Exam
11/5	Film: Magic Town	Fishkin: Voice of the People CH 3
11/10	The evolution of the idea of 'public opinion' and the concept of Deliberative Democracy	Fishkin: Voice of the People CH4,5; <i>A Deliberative Loop on the Cost of Care at Student Health Services</i> (4:30-6:30pm)
11/12	Invited Speaker	Greg Crowley, Coro Center for Civic Leadership
11/17	E-Democracy	PICOLA
11/19	Democratic Deliberation and Transnational Problems	Rawls: The Law of Peoples
11/24	Discussion	
11/26	No Class	
12/1	Class discussion of proposed PA Marriage Protection Amendment	Assessing the Use of Argument Maps
12/3		Handout Take Home Exam

Requirements:

TEXTS:

Cavalier, R. (2009) Democracy for Beginners Steerforth Press
 Fishkin, J. S. (1995). The voice of the people : public opinion and democracy. New Haven, Yale University Press.

Ketchham, Ralph. Framed For Prosperity: The Philosophy of the Constitution Univ of Kansas 1993.

Kymlicka, W. (2002). Contemporary political philosophy : an introduction. Oxford ; New York, Oxford University Press.

Rawls, J. (1999). The law of peoples ; with, The idea of public reason revisited. Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press.

EXAMS: There will be four essay exams of equal weight (some will be take home, some in-class). These essay exams will be worth 25 points each. You will be responsible for putting together a 'research packet' that will allow you to access original documents and primary sources to be used in the development of your first essay (on the philosophy of the constitution).

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Significant participation (i.e., questions, discussions of topics, attendance at "Campus Conversations") is encouraged throughout the course. Special weight will be given to participation in campus "Deliberative Loops." If you sign up for participation in at least *two* of the 'convenience samples' for these events and participate in the entire process, 3 points will added to your final grade.

CLASS ATTENDANCE will be required. Three missed classes will result in 2 points deducted from the final grade average. Four missed classes will result in 3 points deducted from the final grade average and five missed classes will result in 5 points deducted from the final grade average. More than five unauthorized missed classes will result in an Incomplete for the course.