Democracy Core
Autumn: Democracy’s Life and Death

What is a democracy? How are democracies established and maintained? What are their advantages and disadvantages with respect to stability, security, liberty, equality, and justice? Why do democracies decline and die? We address these questions by examining democracies and republics in ancient Europe. We read and discuss primary literary and historiographical texts from, and social scientific analyses of, Athenian democracy and the Roman republic.

Required Texts

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canvas Postings/Portfolio Critique</td>
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<td>Short Paper #1</td>
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<td>Short Paper #2</td>
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Class Participation: I take attendance each session and expect you to participate in class discussions/in-class activities. To do so effectively, read all of the weekly assigned material BEFORE the class meets (e.g. you will read all of the readings listed under Thursday of Week Two before the class meets on Tuesday of Week Two). Remember – a good participator is one who speaks, but also one who knows how to listen to others. And, if you find you are having trouble speaking in class, please talk to me in office hours about what we can do to make it more comfortable for you.

Canvas Postings: Over the quarter, you will be responsible for making 10 posts on the Canvas site by 8pm the night before class. Your posts should be substantive responses to readings (of 300-350 words). Please compose your postings in a Word (or the equivalent) and then cut and paste your postings into the Canvas Discussion board. You will also be responding for responding to the posts of your peers on 10 occasions (approx. 100 words)

Portfolio Critique: On June 4th by 5pm, you will copy and paste all your response posts (not your posts on other people’s posts) into a separate document to make a portfolio. You will write a two-page critique of your posts, critically analyzing your understanding of the material. In particular, you will discuss how your understanding of the material may differ from the beginning of class, and address whether or not you would write differently about any of the
authors now. This critique will be turned in, along with the portfolio, during finals. This should be one document. Additional instructions will be provided.

Papers: You will write two short, 3-5 page papers. One will be due on the Friday of Week 6 by 5pm and one on Friday, June 4th by 5pm. Both are to be submitted through Canvas. Specific instructions will be provided closer to the dates.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Part I. Athenian Democracy

**Week One**
WHAT WAS DEMOCRACY? WHAT IS A POLIS?
T 3/30 Introduction to course (no reading)

Th 4/1 How to Approach Ancient Greek Democracy
Read Cartledge, *Democracy*, prologue & ch. 1-2

**Week Two**
THE BIRTH OF DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC “THEORY”
T 4/6 The Reforms of Solon and Cleisthenes
Read Cartledge, *Democracy*, ch. 3-4; Herodotus, 5.66-5.78; Thucydides, 6.53-6.59.

Th 4/8 Theorizing Democracy
Read Herodotus 3.80-82; Thucydides, 2.36-42 (“Pericles’ Funeral Oration”); Aristotle, *Politics* Book IV, ch. 2-4.

**Week Three**
DRAWING THE BOUNDARIES OF DEMOCRACY


**Week Four**
STASIS, PERENNIAL THREAT
T 4/20 Theorizing Political Change, Collapse, and Revolution
Read selections from Thucydides on Corcyra and Aristotle, *Politics* Book V

Th 4/22 Read Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*

**Week Five**
OVERTHROWING DEMOCRACY?
T 4/27 Read Cartledge, ch. 8 & Thucydides, selections from Book VI

Th 4/29 Read Cartledge, ch. 13 & Aristophanes, *Assemblywomen*

**Week Six**
T 5/4 Teegarden, *Death to Tyrants!: Ancient Greek Democracy*
and the Struggle against Tyranny, pp. 15-56

Part II. The Roman Republic

Th 5/6  INTRODUCTION TO THE RISE OF ROME
       WAS ROME A DEMOCRATIC OR OLIGARCHIC REPUBLIC?
       Read Millar, “The Political Character of the Classical Roman Republic” and
       Millar, “Politics, Persuasion, and the People before the Social War”

       [optional reading: Cartledge, ch. 15.]

Week Seven  FOUNDINGS, REFOUNDINGS & THE SPECTACLE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE
T 5/11  Brutus, Lucretia, and the Res Publica

Th 5/13  Appius, Verginia, and the Uprising of the Plebs

Week Eight  CONSPIRATORIAL MOVES
T 5/18  The Bachanalian Conspiracy
       Read Livy, The Rise of Rome XXXIX.9-18 (not in book but on Canvas)

Th 5/20  Read Sallust, The Conspiracy of Catiline

Week Nine  INSTABILITY, CIVIL WAR, & THE PRINCIPATE’S ESTABLISHMENT
T 5/25  Read Cicero, Pro Caelio

Th 5/27  Read Augustus, selections from Res Gestae