

POLS BC 3327x
Colloquium on the Content of American Politics
Majority Rule and Minority Rights in American Democracy:
Classic and Contemporary Perspectives and Debates
Barnard College, Fall 2003

Professor: Raymond A. Smith

Tuesdays, 6:10-8pm, Lehman Hall Rm. 22

Office Hours: Tuesday 5-6pm, Lehman Hall Rm. 400

E-mail address: ras33@columbia.edu

This course will examine one of the central challenges to both the theory and the practice of democracy: the reconciliation of majority rule with minority rights in a way that neither sacrifices popular sovereignty nor oppresses small or disfavored groups. This course will draw upon both “classics” of political science regarding the role of minority groups in American politics as well as upon contemporary scholarship focused largely on ethnoracial and other minority groups.

The principal requirement for this course is research paper of roughly 25-30 pages that is to draw on both primary and secondary sources. The paper should pose and answer a significant research question relevant to the topic of majority rule and minority rights in American democracy. Part of some classes will be dedicated to a research workshop, with a brief review of key issues in research and discussion of the status of class members’ research. At specified points in the semester, students will submit and discuss in class: a topic, a research question, a description of primary data sources, a partial bibliography, an outline, and a final draft.

As a colloquium, the focus of each class will be a vigorous discussion of the readings and their implications and the applications of their ideas to case studies in public policy. The readings during most weeks are excerpts from longer works and as such are not particularly long but are often complex and require careful reading and reflection. All students are required to complete all readings, with designated students each week taking a lead role in presenting and facilitating discussion about the readings and their implications for majority rule and minority rights. One to two page written summaries and analyses of the readings as well as answers to reading-related questions will be required each week. The final grade will be calculated on the following basis:

- attendance and general participation -- 20%;
- responses to written weekly questions and in-class presentations-- 20%;
- research paper-related assignments – 20%;
- final draft of research paper – 40%

Readings:

All of the required readings have been placed on reserve in the Barnard library. In addition, the following books are recommended for purchase at the Columbia Bookstore:

- Dahl, Robert: *A Preface to Democratic Theory*. (University of Chicago Press)
- John Higham, Ed.: *Civil Rights and Social Wrongs* (Penn State Press)
- Booth, Wayne C. , Gregory Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, *The Craft of Research, 2nd Ed.* (University of Chicago Press)
- Arend Lijphart, *Democracies: Patterns of Majoritarian and Consensus Government in Twenty-One Countries*; New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1984
- Arthur M. Melzer, Jerry Weingerger, and M. Richard Zinman, Eds. *Multiculturalism and American Democracy*; Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Press, 1998
- Christine Sistare, Larry May, and Leslie Francis, Eds.; *Groups and Group Rights*; Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Press, 2001

Course Schedule

The following is the anticipated course schedule, which may be subject to slight modification as the semester progresses. In addition, a limited number of readings may be added as the semester progresses.

Week 1 – September 2 Meeting Introduction, Overview, and Organizational Meeting

Week 2 – September 9 Meeting Madisonian Democracy and its Critiques

Reading for class:

The US Constitution, including the 27 Amendments

The Federalist Papers, # 10, 15, 47, 48, 51
(can be accessed at: <http://memory.loc.gov/const/fed/fedpapers.html>)

Robert Dahl, *Preface to Democratic Theory*, Chapter 1: “Madisonian Democracy”

Wayne Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*, Ch. 1-2

Week 3 – September 16 Meeting Populist/Majoritarian Democracy and its Critiques

---Research paper topic due in class---

Reading for class:

Robert Dahl, *Preface to Democratic Theory*, Chapter 2: “Populist Democracy”

Arend Lijphart, "The Westminster Model of Democracy," (Chapter 1 of *Democracies: Patterns of Majoritarian and Consensus Government in Twenty-One Countries*; New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1984)

Bernard Boxill, "Majoritarian Democracy and Cultural Minorities" (Chapter 6 in *Multiculturalism and American Democracy*; Arthur M. Melzer, Jerry Weingerger, and M. Richard Zinman, Eds. (Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Press, 1998)

Steven Lee, "Democracy and the Problem of Persistent Minorities" (Chapter 6 in *Groups and Group Rights*; Christine Sistare, Larry May, and Leslie Francis, Eds.; Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Press, 2001)

Wayne Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*, Ch. 3-6

Week 4 – September 23 Meeting **Pluralist/Polyarchal Democracy**

-- Research paper question due in class--

Reading for class:

David Truman, *The Governmental Process*, Chapters 1, 26

Robert Dahl, *Who Governs?*, Chapter 1

Robert Dahl, *Preface to Democratic Theory*, Chapters, 3, 4, 5

Arend Lijphart, *Democracies*, Ch. 2

Wayne Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*, Ch. 7-8

Week 5 – September 30 Meeting **Critiques of Pluralist/Polyarchal Democracy**

--Statement regarding primary sources due in class--

Reading for class:

Peter Bachrach and Morton Baratz, *The Second Face of Power*,

E.E. Schattschneider, *The Semisovereign People*, Ch. 1, 2

Theodore Lowi, *The End of Liberalism*, Ch. 11

Terry Moe, *The Organization of Interests*, Introduction, Ch. 2

Week 6 – October 6 Meeting
Electoral Reforms to Enhance Minority Influence

--- Annotated partial bibliography of secondary sources due in class---

Reading for class:

David Ian Lublin, “Race, Representation, and Redistricting” (Chapter 5 of *Classifying by Race*; Paul E. Peterson, Ed.; Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1995)

Robert Richie and Steven Hill, “The Case for Proportional Representation” (Excerpted from *Whose Vote Counts?*; Boston: Beacon Press, 2001)

Lani Guanier, “The Representation of Minority Interests” (Chapter 2 of *Classifying by Race*; Paul E. Peterson, Ed.; Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1995)

Wayne Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*, Ch. 9-11

Week 7 – October 13 Meeting
“A Constitutional Convention”

--Refined paper topic due in class--

Wayne Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*, Ch. 12-13

Week 8 – October 20 Meeting:
Contemporary Perspectives on Majorities and Minorities

-- 1-2 page outline of research paper due in class; bring enough copies for everyone in the class and be prepared to **briefly** present your outline--

Required reading:

Part II: Groups and Democratic Theory (Introduction plus Chapters 6-10) *Groups and Group Rights*; Christine Sistare, Larry May, and Leslie Francis, Eds.; Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Press, 2001)

Wayne Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*, Ch. 14-15

Week 9 – October 27 Meeting:
Minority Self-Empowerment, Part I: Ethnoracial Minorities

Reading for class:

John Higham, “A Historical Perspective on the Civil Rights Movement” and Lawrence H. Fuchs, “The Changing Meaning of Civil Rights” in *Civil Rights and Social Wrongs in Civil Rights and Social Wrongs*.

Louis DeSipio, “Myths and Realities: Latino Ideology, Partisanship, and Policy Preferences” (Chapter 2 of *Counting on the Latino Vote: Latinos as a New Electorate*, University Press of Virginia, 1996)

Yen Le Espiritu, “Coming Together: The Asian-American Movement” (Chapter 2 of *Asian American Panethnicity: Bridging Institutions and Identities*; Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1992)

Wayne Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*, Ch. 16

Week 10 –November 4 Meeting

Minority Self-Empowerment, Part II: “New Minorities”

Required Reading:

John D’Emilio, “Cycles of Change, Questions of Strategy: The Gay and Lesbian Movement after Fifty Years” (Chapter 2 of *The Politics of Gay Rights*, Craig Rimmerman, Kenneth D. Wald, and Clyde Wilcox, Eds.; Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000)

Joseph P. Shapiro, “Introduction: You Just Don’t Understand” and “Tiny Tims, Supercrips, and the End of Pity” (Chapters 1 and 2 of *No Pity: People with Disabilities Forging a New Civil Rights Movement*; New York: Times Books, 1994)

Riki Ann Wilchins, “Why this Book” and “Why Identity Politics Really, Really Sucks” (Chapters 2 and 10 of *Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender*; Ithaca, New York: Firebrand Books, 1997)

Week 11 – November 11 Meeting

Public Policy and the Status of Minorities

Lawrence D. Bobo, “The Color Line, the Dilemma, and the Dream: Race Relations in America at the Close of the Twentieth Century” in *Civil Rights and Social Wrongs*.

Erwin Chemerinsky, “Making Sense of the Affirmative Action Debate” in *Civil Rights and Social Wrongs*.

Orlando Patterson, *The Ordeal of Integration*, Ch. 1, 5

Douglas S. Massey, “Residential Segregation and Persistent Urban Poverty” in *Civil Rights and Social Wrongs*.

Week 12 – November 18 Meeting

Multiculturalism and American Democracy

Required Readings:

Michael Walzer, “Five Regimes of Toleration” (Chapter 2 of *On Toleration*, Yale University Press, 1997)

C. Vann Woodward, “Meanings for Multiculturalism” (Chapter 3 of *Multiculturalism and American Democracy*; Arthur M. Melzer, Jerry Weingerger, and M. Richard Zinman, Eds. (Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Press, 1998)

James Ceaser, “Multiculturalism and American Liberal Democracy” (Chapter 9 of *Multiculturalism and American Democracy*; Arthur M. Melzer, Jerry Weingerger, and M. Richard Zinman, Eds. (Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Press, 1998)

Anne Norton, “The Virtues of Multiculturalism” (Chapter 8 of *Multiculturalism and American Democracy*; Arthur M. Melzer, Jerry Weingerger, and M. Richard Zinman, Eds. (Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Press, 1998)

Week 13 – November 25 Meeting

Critiques of Multiculturalism

Stanley Fish, “Boutique Multiculturalism,” (Chapter 4 of *Multiculturalism and American Democracy*; Arthur M. Melzer, Jerry Weingerger, and M. Richard Zinman, Eds. (Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Press, 1998)

Arthur Schlesinger, “Foreword” and “Epilogue” in *The Disuniting of America: Reflections on a Multicultural Society*, Revised and Enlarged Version (WW Norton & Co., 1998)

Diane Ravitch, “Our Pluralistic Common Culture” in *Civil Rights and Social Wrongs*

David Hollinger, “Towards a Postethnic Perspective” (Chapter 5 of *Postethnic America: Beyond Multiculturalism*, Princeton University Press, 1995)

Michael Walzer, “Epilogue” in *On Toleration* (Yale University Press, 1997)

Week 14 – December 2 Meeting

Student research paper presentations begin

--*Final draft of papers due in class*--

Week 15 – December 9 Meeting

Student research paper presentations conclude