

COLLOQUIUM ON DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL THEORY AND ETHICS
POS BC3433X FALL 2001

INSTRUCTOR: [PROFESSOR D. CARALEY](#)
CLASS: THU. 2:10-4, 421 LEHMAN HALL
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In Fall 2001 this colloquium will focus on the analysis of such central theoretical concepts in the great books of political theory as power, politics, leadership, elitism, democracy, tyranny, liberty, justice, majority rule, minority rights, force vs. morality, and executive vs. legislative powers. Throughout the course these concepts will be related to the current operation of the American constitutional democracy. All the readings listed below are required and must be done by the date on which they will be discussed in class.

Plato, The Republic (Oxford paperback, trans. by Cornford)
Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian Wars (Penguin paperback, trans. by Warner)
Aristotle, The Politics (Oxford paperback, trans. by Barker)
Machiavelli, The Prince (Norton paperback, trans. by Adams)
 , The Discourses (any ed.)
Hobbes, The Leviathan
A.S.P. Woodhouse (ed.), Puritanism and Liberty, Being the Army Debates [concerning
democracy during the English civil war]
Locke, The Second Treatise on Civil Government
Montesquieu, The Spirit of the Laws (Haffner)
The Declaration of Independence
The United States Constitution
Hamilton, Madison, and Jay, The Federalist Papers (any edition)
Lincoln, The Gettysburg Address
Caraley, "Elections and Dilemmas of Democratic Governance" and Epstein, L. Changing
Perceptions of the British System," in Xiaobo Lu (ed.), Promise and Problems of Old and
New Democracies.

I. Introduction (September 6)
Reread U.S. Constitution

II. The Politics of Intellectual Elitism (September 13, 20)

Plato, The Republic, II.367-IV.434 (skim III.392-III.412), IV.445-VI.508, VII.514-
VII.531 (skim VII.521-VII.531), VII.531-VII.541 [In Cornford, pp. 53-129 (skim
81-102), 144-220, 227-263 (skim 235-250)]

III. On the Strengths and Weaknesses of Democracy (September 27, October 4)

Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian Wars, pp. 143-151, 212-223.

Plato, The Republic, VIII.543-569. [In Cornford, pp. 265-296]

Aristotle, The Politics, pp. 1-8, 92-96, 110-137, 140-149, 162-169, 179-186, 203-207, 224-234, 257-260, 279-289

IV. Ethical Behavior and Political Leadership (October 11, 18)

Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian Wars, pp. 158-164, 236-245, 400-408.

Machiavelli, The Prince, pp. 3-12, 25-31, 42-45, 47-59, 70-75.

_____, The Discourses, book 1, ch. LVII.

Plato, The Republic, I .327--II .367, IV. 434--IV. 444, VI.487--496, VIII.567--IX. 592.[In Cornford, pp. 1-53, 129-143, 193-204, 293-320]

V. On the Rights of Citizens (October 25, November 1, 8)

Hobbes, The Leviathan, Introduction, chs. 13-15, 17-21, 24, 26, 29, 30, last 2 pp. of conclusion.

A.S.P. Woodhouse (ed.), Puritanism and Liberty, Being the Army Debates [concerning democracy during the English civil war], pp. 401-403, 422-426, 443-445, 52-86, 379-386 [from texts of debates].

Locke, The Second Treatise on Civil Government.

Montesquieu, The Spirit of the Laws, book XI, chs. 1-6.

VI. Founding and Protecting the American Constitutional Democracy (November 15, 29, December 6)

The Declaration of Independence.

The United States Constitution including the Bill of Rights.

Hamilton, Madison, and Jay, The Federalist Papers, Introduction and nos. 9-10, 15-16, 23, 35, 39, 44-49, 51, 62, 68, 69-71, 73, 78.

Cases of Marbury vs. Madison (1803) and McCulloch vs. Maryland (1819) in, among other places, A.T. Mason (ed.), Free Government in the Making, 3rd ed., pt. VII.

Lincoln, The Gettysburg Address.

Caraley, "Elections and Dilemmas of Democratic Governance," and

Epstein, L., Changing Perceptions of the British System," in Xiaobo Lu (ed.), Promise and Problems of Old and New Democracies.

VII. Reports (December 13)