PSCI 423/623  
Democratic Theory and Practice  
Fall 2018  
PAS 2085, Thursday 11:30-2:20pm

Instructor: Dr. Anna Drake  
Email Address: amdrake@uwaterloo.ca  
Office Location: Hagey Hall 317  
Office Hours: Thursdays 2:30-4:30pm and by appointment

Contact Policy: The easiest way to contact me is via email. I will typically respond within 24 hours (except during weekends and holidays). Please stop by during my office hours, or speak with me before or after class. If you can’t make my office hours please email to make an appointment for an alternate time.

Course Description: This seminar class will examine the normative foundations of democracy, as well as its limitations. Why is democracy desirable? What is the connection between democracy and justice? How do these ideals influence the design of democratic institutions and how well do the institutions work? In this course we will look at questions of pluralism, inclusion and exclusion, rights, democratic organization, and communication. We will link themes to contemporary events (Scotland’s 2014 referendum, Black Lives Matter, Occupy, etc.) and examine justifications of protest and civil disobedience, as well as particular challenges that arise in this respect (e.g.: violence, free speech, hate speech and harm, pluralism). We will also look at deliberative democracy and examine arguments for democratic citizenship in a global context. Throughout this we will use the lens of democratic equality to investigate majority obligations as well as obligations to adhere to majority outcomes.

Pre-Requisites: Level at least 4A

Learning Objectives:  
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe key challenges to democratic theory and practice and understand the circumstances that mitigate or exacerbate these problems
- Understand the connection between democracy and key concepts (freedom, equality, justice)
- Identify connections between readings and the weekly themes
- Engage with classmates and analyze the readings in a thoughtful and respectful way
• Demonstrate critical analytical skills, both written and verbally
  o Effectively convey understanding of different concepts
  o Develop their own arguments, and be able to support these with evidence
• Demonstrate research skills in a final essay

University Regulations:

Cross-listed course

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity and Discipline

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the Office of Academic Integrity webpage for more information.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. Check the Office of Academic Integrity for more information. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.

Grievances and Appeals

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to
arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

**Turnitin.com:** Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

**Mental Health Support**
All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

**On Campus**
- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext 32655
- **MATES:** one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek form Student Life Centre

**Off campus, 24/7**
- **Good2Talk:** Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- **Here 24/7:** Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- **OK2BME:** set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS website
Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources (PDF)](#)
Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

**Texts:**
All course materials are available as e-readings on LEARN.

**Format:**
This is a seminar course. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the current week’s readings. Careful reading is required and this often entails reading once for content and then revisiting the article/chapter a second time. Please bring the week’s assigned readings to the seminar for reference.
### Course Requirements and Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Worth:</th>
<th>Due:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Evaluated weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion questions</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Weekly (by 11:30am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Analysis</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Thursday October 18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td>0%*</td>
<td>Monday November 5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Monday December 3rd</td>
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*This is still a requirement of the course.

### Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

**Participation:**
Participation counts for 20% of your grade. This will be evaluated weekly. Please note that attendance is not participation (students who attend but who do not engage will not receive a passing participation grade). Evaluation will factor both quality and quantity of participation, and will consider how well students engage with the assigned readings, supplementary content/connections to current events, and each other. Students will receive a mid-term update (which includes a grade to-date and comments) and can speak with me at any time if you have any questions about this aspect of the course.

**Assignments:**

**Discussion Questions**
Students should submit 3 discussion questions per week for a total of 10 weekly submissions. (You may submit 11 sets of questions and I will count the highest 10 grades.)

Questions should be analytical, deal directly with (at least) one of the week’s required readings and supplementary readings, and address a significant theme, problem, etc. Aim to make each question (with contextual set-up) a few sentences long. See assignment sheet for further detail.

Questions will be graded for content and will be returned to you the following week.

**Due: Thursdays 11:30am, uploaded to LEARN** (late assignments will NOT be accepted for marks). Due to the time-sensitive nature of the assignment (class discussion) there will be NO exceptions to this.

**Critical Analysis:**
Students are required to write a short (4 page, double-spaced; approx. 1000 words) critical analysis of ONE of the readings found in weeks 7-13.* Papers should be analytical, not descriptive: clearly state and develop your own argument on one aspect of the reading and engage carefully with the text (analyze specific parts of the article to develop and support your own argument).

I will distribute an assignment sheet in class outlining this in more detail.

**Due: Thursday October 18th (by 11:30am in the PSCI dropbox & uploaded to LEARN)**
*Students who wish to write on one of the articles from weeks 2-5 may do so, but these assignments must be submitted before the class for which the reading is assigned (i.e.: if your analysis is of a week 3 reading, it is due by 11:30am on Thursday, September 20th).

**Proposal:**
You must submit a short (not more than one page, single-spaced) essay proposal. It should set out: 1) the problem you plan to address in your final essay; 2) include a brief overview of how you plan to structure the paper; and 3) list key sources you plan to use. Proposals will receive feedback; although they will not be graded for content, you MUST hand one in and have it approved before you submit your final paper. Failure to do so may result in a paper grade of “0”.

**Due:** Monday November 5th (by 11:30am: uploaded to LEARN)
*Students who would like feedback earlier on can submit their proposals before this date

**Essay**
Undergraduate students are required to write a 12 page (approx. 3000 words) essay; graduate students are required to write an 18-20 page (approx. 4500-5000 words) essay (double-spaced; standard font and margins). You are free to write on an issue of your choice, but students MUST ground their paper in one of the course’s themes and MUST make a theoretical question or problem the central focus of the paper. Papers will (in addition to content, organization, and style) be graded for engagement with the central issues of the course, engagement with academic sources, quality of analysis, and development of your own argument. See assignment sheet for more detail.

**Due:** Monday December 3rd (by 11:30am in the PSCI dropbox & uploaded to LEARN)

**Late Policy:**
The critical analysis and essay are subject to a 5% per day late penalty. This INCLUDES weekend days. If students require an extension (see policy below) please contact me as soon as possible. Failure to do so within 48 hours after the assignment deadline may result in denial of an extension/forfeiting the assignment (please note for the CA you cannot submit the assignment after class discussion on that week’s readings – no exceptions).

Please note the Critical Analysis and Essay require submission of hard copies (in addition to uploading them to LEARN). If you do not submit a hard copy within 24 hours of submitting your e-copy I will deduct a 5% penalty.

**Policy on Extensions:**
Extensions will be granted for documented medical (physical or mental health) or compassionate reasons only. Please speak with me as soon as possible and, if you can, before the assignment is due. Please note that verification of illness forms required by UW will cost you $20.
The student success office and the writing centre offer a number of workshops and one-on-one sessions. Counselling services offers a variety of free resources, including coping skills workshops and crisis support.

https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/

https://uwaterloo.ca/writing-centre/

https://uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services/node/1

https://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/mental-health-services

Extensions will not be granted for a heavy workload, conflict with employment, or for computer problems. It is strongly recommended that students use a program such as dropbox to continually back up their files.

Schedule:

A note on the readings: each week has between 1-3 required readings. These are followed by a list of supplementary readings (mostly news articles): you are required to read one of the supplementary readings each week to use with your discussion question assignment (and to better prepare us for class discussions). You can, of course, read and engage with more (and draw on other relevant examples & news stories).

Week 1: (Thursday September 6th)

Introduction and course overview (no assigned readings).

Week 2: Democracy and Minorities (Thursday September 13th)


Supplementary readings:


**Week 3: Mobilization (Thursday September 20th)**


Supplementary Readings:


Joyce Fegan. “‘I had no real interest in politics, until this’—Ireland’s accidental abortion activists.” *The Guardian*. May 22, 2018.

**Week 4: Democratic Equality and Political Obligation (Thursday September 27th)**


Supplementary readings:


**Week 5: Rhetoric and Persuasion (Thursday October 4th)**


*Supplementary readings:*


**Week 6: NO CLASS due to study break (Thursday October 11th)**

Happy Thanksgiving & study break!

**Week 7: Obligation and Civil Disobedience (Thursday October 18th)**


*Supplementary readings:*


Week 8: Protest, Violence, and Resistance (Thursday October 25th)


Supplementary readings:


Week 9: Protest and Pluralism (Thursday November 1st)


Supplementary readings:


**Week 10: Free Speech (Thursday November 8th)**


Supplementary readings:


Idil Mussa. “Safe zones around abortion clinics now in place.” *CBC News* February 1, 2018.


**Week 11: Democratic Deliberation and Engagement (Thursday November 15th)**


Supplementary readings:


**Week 12: Citizenship and Non-citizenship (Thursday November 22nd)**


*Supplementary readings:*


Andrew Griffith. ‘What the previous government learned about birth tourism.” August 28, 2018.


**Week 13: The problem with “we the people” (Thursday November 29th)**


*Supplementary readings:*

Patti Lenard. “We are all responsible for the safe passage of Syrian refugees.” *Huffington Post* September 6, 2015.
