

**University of Guelph — Department of Philosophy**  
**PHIL 4230 Social & Political Philosophy**

**Instructor:** Veronica Majewski

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**Office:** MACK 339

**Office Hours:** Wed 3:00PM - 4:00PM, or by appointment

**Lecture:** Wed 11:30AM - 2:20PM

**Classroom:** MACK 318

**Course description**

Over the last twenty to thirty years, deliberative democracy has emerged as a significant and influential political theory. This course is intended to provide a survey of many of the most notable names in deliberative democratic theory, as well as some of its critics. By the end of the semester, students will be well-versed in different approaches to deliberative democratic theory, and have a strong grasp of its ongoing debates and challenges.

**Readings**

All required readings will be available online through the library's ARES Course Reserve System: <https://ares.lib.uoguelph.ca/ares/>. The selection and schedule of readings may change during the course of the semester.

**Format**

Class meets once a week. Class time will be divided between lecture and class discussion.

**Evaluation**

Critical responses (5) 10%

Class participation 10%

Short essay 25%

Final essay thesis statement & outline 10%

Final essay 45%

**Critical responses:** Students will write five 250-500 word critical responses throughout the semester. These responses are not summaries of the reading, but rather thoughtful engagements with the philosopher's work. Students should pick out one aspect of the philosopher's work that they find interesting, puzzling, dead wrong, etc., and analyze it. Each response should end with a question the student has about the reading, and we will use these questions to stimulate class discussion. Responses are due in class and in person.

**Class participation:** an upper year philosophy course only works with a healthy amount of class discussion. This does not necessarily mean that a student must contribute to every single class, but she or he must make significant contributions to class discussion throughout the course of the semester. Students who experience any kind of difficulties with public speaking may contact me privately to work out alternate arrangements. Please note that these arrangements must be worked out ahead of time. If you come to me late in the term to discuss your participation grade, we will only be able to make arrangements going forward — there will be no opportunity to make up for classes that have already passed.

**Short essay:** A completely non-negotiable word limit of 1250-1500 words, on the topic of your choice. Students will submit electronic copies in order to verify word counts. Papers shorter or longer than the word limit will be deducted marks. This will be much harder than you think it will be. Don't leave it until the last minute.

**Final essay thesis statement & outline:** Students will be required to circulate a thesis statement and outline to the rest of the class in advance of our last scheduled meeting. The last day of class will serve as an "essay workshop". Each student will speak briefly about their paper topic, after which the class will provide constructive feedback.

**Final essay:** 3000-3250 words, on the topic of your choice. Students may go outside the class readings when writing their papers, but their focus must be on material covered in class. If you do plan to go outside the readings, I strongly encourage you to meet with me well in advance to discuss your other source(s).

### **E-mail Communication**

As per University regulations, all students are required to check their **uoguelph.ca** e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

### **When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, ID#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:  
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

### **Drop Date**

The last date to drop one-semester **Fall 2015** courses, without academic penalty, is **November 6, 2015**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:  
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

### **Copies of out-of-class assignments**

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities which, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:  
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c14/c14-strightsrespon.shtml>

### **Academic Misconduct**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:  
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

### **Recording of Materials**

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

### **Resources**

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at:  
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>

If you find yourself in difficulty, contact the undergraduate advisor in your program, or the BA Counseling Office: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml>

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1: September 16**

Introductory remarks, no readings.

### **Week 2: September 23**

“What Deliberative Democracy Means”, in Amy Gutmann and Dennis Thompson’s *Why Deliberative Democracy*, p. 1-63.

### **Week 3: September 30**

“The Coming of Age of Deliberative Democracy”, John Bohman, p. 400-425.

“Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy”, Joshua Cohen, p. 76-91.

### **Week 4: October 07**

“Three Normative Models of Deliberative Democracy”, Jürgen Habermas, p. 1-10.

“Deliberative Rationality & Models of Democratic Legitimacy”, Seyla Benhabib, p. 26-52

You may find Habermas difficult (many do). I recommend reading the entry on Habermas in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

### **Week 5: October 14**

“Against Deliberation”, Lynn Sanders, p. 347-376.

“Deliberation’s darker side: six questions for Iris Marion Young and Jane Mansbridge”, Archon Fung, p. 47-54.

A portion of class will be devoted to discussing the short papers due on October 21.

### **Week 6: October 21**

#### **\*SHORT PAPERS DUE IN CLASS\***

“A systemic approach to deliberative democracy”, Jane Mansbridge et al., p. 1-26

“Insurgent Democracy: Civil Society and State”, John Dryzek, p. 1-28.

### **Week 7: November 04**

“A Deliberative Approach to Conflicts of Culture”, Monique Deveaux, p. 780-807.

“Recognizing Pluralism and Consensus as Political Ideals”, John Dryzek, p. 634-649

### **Week 8: November 11**

“Activist Challenges to Deliberative Democracy”, Iris Young, p. 670-690.

“Communication and the Other: Beyond Deliberative Democracy”, Iris Young, p. 120-135

### **Week 9: November 18**

“Deliberation before the revolution: Towards an ethics of deliberative democracy in an unjust world”, Archon Fung, p. 397-419.

“Resisting Culture: Seyla Benhabib’s Deliberative Approach”, Glenn Coulthard, p. 138-154.

**Week 10: November 25**

“Deliberative Democracy or Agonistic Pluralism?”, Chantal Mouffe, p. 745-759.

“Between Decision and Deliberation: Political Paradox in Democratic Theory”,

Bonnie Honig, p.1-17

**\*FINAL ESSAY THESIS STATEMENT & OUTLINE MUST BE CIRCULATED BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27\***

**Week 11: December 02**

Essay Workshop: your readings for this week will be the paper outlines circulated prior to class.

Further information will be provided closer to the date.

**Final Essay Due Date: TBA (electronic submission permitted)**