



Universitat
Pompeu Fabra
Barcelona

Year: 2019/2020

21712 - Theories of Democracy and Justice

Syllabus Information

Academic Course: 2019/20

Academic Center: 339 - Faculty of Political and Social Sciences

Study: 3391 - Bachelor's (Degree) Programme in Political and Administration Sciences

Subject: 21712 - Theories of Democracy and Justice

Credits: 4.0

Course: 420 - Bachelor's degree in Political and Administration Sciences: 4 701 - M nor en Ci ncia Pol tica: 1

Teaching languages: English (though papers and exams may be also written in Catalan or Spanish)

Teaching Period: Third Quarter

Teacher: Sergi Morales-G lvez

Office Hours: Thursdays 11.30 (immediately after class), or by appointment (email)

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1. Presentation

There is a never-ending question (asked in very different forms) that has consistently appeared throughout the history of humankind: what is a good society? How should a society be organized to be considered just and/or democratic? Political philosophers have tried to deal with such questions from Ancient Greece until our times.

In the recent history of political thought, democracy and justice are ideals that have thrived together. However, the present reality of liberal democracies is full of tensions, dilemmas, contradictions and conflicts that show, on the one hand, the difficulty of fully implementing those ideals simultaneously and, on the other, the broad disagreement on the actual meaning of justice and democracy in the first place.

This course aims to address some of the main normative debates in the field of Political Theory, looking for responses to the challenges faced by contemporary societies. Among these, specific attention will be devoted to issues of cultural diversity and social inequality, frequently combining abstract discussion with case studies.

2. Associated skills

This course is part of the optional courses itinerary 'democracy in diverse societies' that, altogether, develops the following competencies/skills:

BASIC SKILLS:

CB2. That students can apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have competences typically demonstrated through devising and sustaining arguments and solving problems within their field of study.

CB3. That students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their field of study) to inform judgments that include reflection on relevant social, scientific or ethical.

CB4. That students can communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

CB5. That students have developed those skills needed to undertake further studies with a high degree of autonomy.

GENERAL SKILLS:

CG1. Capacity for analysis and synthesis.

CG3. Knowledge of a second language.

CG6. Interpersonal skills.

CG8. Appreciation of diversity and multiculturalism.

CG15. Project design and management.

TRANSVERSAL SKILLS:

CT1. Identify and analyze critically gender inequality and its intersection with other axes of inequality.

SPECIFIC SKILLS:

EC1. Identify the main theories and approaches of Political Science and Administration.

EC2. Analyze the structure and functioning of political systems.

EC4. Examine the fundamentals of comparative politics. CE6. Identify citizen behavior and democratic values.

EC8. Interpret contemporary political theories and arguments.

EC9. Interpret the historical dimension of political and social processes. CE17. Apply the methods and techniques of political and social research. CE19. Examine the techniques of political communication.

3. Class Structure and Teaching Methods

The teaching methods (and assessment) of the course are based on three types of activities. First, classroom activities include: attendance, presenting readings in groups and discussion with colleagues. Second, it includes activities to do outside the classroom both individually (readings and a movie review) and in groups (prepare reading presentations and an essay). Third, there is the exam, which will mainly assess the understanding of the readings and the students' ability to develop personal arguments.

Each session of the course will be composed as follows:

- General introduction to the issue by the instructor (between 1-1.30h).
- Break (15 minutes)
- Presentation of the reading(s) by a group of students, questions and answers, and general discussion. Students must have read and prepared the compulsory readings each week and participate in the discussion based on the readings (15 minutes' presentation plus discussion).
- The last part of the class will be devoted to different tasks (for example, the instructor will introduce controversial debates to the students via newspapers pieces, movies, etc.).

4. Contents

Unit. 1 – Presentation: What is Political Theory about? (April 2, 2020)

The first session will be introductory. First, it will introduce the goals, methodology, and academic organization of the course. Second, it will provide an overview of the readings and assign classroom presentations of them. Third, it will introduce the basic concepts of the course, what is the relationship between political science and political theory, and raises questions about the main object of political theory (namely, theories of democracy and justice) and their crucial role as sources of political legitimacy in western liberal democracies.

Although there is no mandatory reading, I recommend the following reading:

- Bauböck, R. (2008) "Normative Political Theory and empirical research", in Della Porta, D. and Keating, M. (eds.), *Approaches and methodologies in the Social Sciences: A pluralist perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 40–60.

Unit. 2 – The *Complex Relationship between Democracy and Justice* (April 16, 2020)

This unit introduces the basic concepts of the course and raises questions about the main object of theories of democracy and justice, and their crucial role as sources of political legitimacy in western liberal democracies. It also tries to provide different perspectives on whether these concepts are inherently compatible, opposed or complementary.

Mandatory reading:

- Valentini, L. (2012) Justice, Disagreement and Democracy. *British Journal of Political Science* 43: 177–199.
- Goodin, R. (2004) “Democracy, Justice and Impartiality” in Dowding, K., Goodin R. and Pateman, C. (eds.), *Justice and Democracy: Essays for Brian Barry*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 97–111.

Unit. 3 – Equality and Distributive Justice (April 30, 2020)

The fair distribution of rights, opportunities and resources among individual members of the society, is one of the main concerns of liberal political philosophy. Different accounts of equality and/or justified inequalities are the central element of debates on social justice. How much state intervention to redistribute wealth and resources is required or legitimate in well-ordered societies?

Mandatory reading:

- Kymlicka, W. (2002) “Liberal Equality”, in *Contemporary Political Philosophy. An Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 53–101.*

Unit. 4 – Communitarianism: is still alive? (May 7, 2020)

During the 1980s, some philosophers criticize John Rawls and mainstream liberalism for being too individualistic and for not paying enough attention to the importance of communities and group membership. Is membership morally valuable for individuals? Why?

Mandatory reading (no presentation by students in class; professor will present it):

- Walzer, M. (1990) The Communitarian Critique of Liberalism. *Political Theory* 18 (1): 6–23.

Unit. 5 - Justice, Nationalism and Culture (May 14, 2020)

The majority in today's liberal democracies has to deal with multiple demands for respect that come from diverse minority groups. Do these struggles for recognition have their own meaning that is independent from the question of fair redistribution of resources and goods? To address this question we will discuss whether there should be any special group rights apart from the general liberal right to ethical independence, and whether identity politics is the right way to maintain equal respect for all citizens.

Mandatory reading:

- Kymlicka, Will. 1995. *Multicultural Citizenship. A Liberal Theory of Rights*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 75–93.*

Unit. 6 - Self-determination and Secession (May 21, 2020)

One way in which the ‘demos’ or the ‘society’ are contested is by the attempts to break up existing nation states, and the creation of new ones. If membership in a given political community is so decisive, why are there so few accounts of what justifies existing borders? When is a change in borders legitimate? What do theories of democracy and justice have to say about all this?

Mandatory reading:

- Beran, H. (1984) A Liberal Theory of Secession. *Political Studies* 32 (1): 21–31.
- Birch, A. H. (1984) Another Liberal Theory of Secession. *Political Studies* 32: 596–602.

Unit. 7 – Global Democracy and Global Justice (May 28, 2020)

Humanity faces several issues all over the world: socio-economic inequalities between developed countries and the global south; global warming; refugee and migration movements, etc. How should these issues be addressed? This session will provide an overview of current normative debates on the feasibility, desirability, and necessity of extending (global) democracy beyond nation-states (to transnational and global organizations), focusing as well on nationalist criticisms to this question.

Mandatory reading:

- Nussbaum, M. (1996) “Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism” in Nussbaum, M. (ed.), *For Love of Country*.

Boston: Beacon Press, 2–17*

- Goodin, R. E. (2010) *Global Democracy: In the Beginning*. *International Theory* 2: 175–210.

Unit. 8 - Green Political Theory (June 4, 2020)

Human action is decisively affecting our contemporary world and how we relate with our environment. The fact that the globe's climate is changing dramatically (what is called 'climate change') is more evident than ever. How should we deal with climate change? In particular, how should we face the ecological, resource and socio-economic challenges raised up by climate change?

Mandatory reading:

- Dobson, A. (2003) *Citizenship and the Environment*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, chapter 3.

Unit. 9 – Feminist Political Theory (June 11, 2020)

Feminism is both a philosophical tradition and a political movement aiming justice for women and the end of sexist domination in all possible forms. How has this political theory been conceptualized? Which normative proposals do it rises up? Which injustices does it aim to fix up?

Mandatory reading:

- Nussbaum, M. C. (1998) "Whether from Reason or Prejudice": Taking Money for Bodily Services. *The Journal of Legal Studies* 27 (S2), 693–723.
- Pateman, C. (1988) "What's Wrong with Prostitution?" in Pateman, C., *The Sexual Contract*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 189–218.

5. Evaluation

Continuous assessment:

- a) Room Tasks (fundamentally: group presentation. But also, classroom or online participation. 70% of attendance to the 'seminar part' of the class [sessions after the break]) (20%)
- b) Movie Review (20%)

Final Assessment:

- a) Final Exam (35%) (at least 5/10)
- b) Essay in groups (3-4 people) (25%)
- c) Optional (+10%): two options [if anyone interested, let the professor know beforehand]
 - a. Book review of a philosophical novel (Lukes, S. (1995) *The Curious Enlightenment of Professor Caritat: A Novel of Ideas* [*there is also a Spanish translation]).
 - b. Review of the TV show 'The Handmaid's Tale' (first season) (or the original book, by Margaret Atwood (1985)*).

Retake Exam:

- May retake the exam of early July, students who have attended 70% of the seminar sessions (sessions after the break), gave a presentation in class, handed the movie review and the essay in groups, and participated in the final exam but obtain a final grade for the course under 5.

- The recovery consists of an exam which will assess the content of the theoretical sessions and relevant readings.

6. Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and will result in failure of the course. Remember to quote properly.

7. Bibliography and information resources

Useful links: <http://plato.stanford.edu/> and <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>

Suggested readings and bibliography:

- Archibugi, D. (2008) *The Global Commonwealth of Citizens*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Arnsperger, C. and Van Parijs, P. (2002) *Ética Económica y Social: Teorías de la Sociedad Justa*. Barcelona: Paidós, 11–26.
- Bellamy, R., and Mason, A. (eds.) (2018) *Political Concepts*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Berlin, I. (1962) "Does Political Theory Still Exist?", in Laslett, P. and Runciman, W. G. (eds.), *Philosophy, Politics, and Society*, 2nd Series. Oxford: Blackwell, 1–33.*
- Buchanan, A. (1991), *Secession. The morality of Political Divorce from Port Sumter to Lithuania and Quebec*. Boulder: Westview Press.*
- Butler, J. (2006 [1990]). *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York: Routledge.
- Canovan, M. (1996) *Nationhood and Political Theory*. Aldershot. E. Elgar Publishing.
- Della Porta, D. and Keating, M. (eds.) (2008) *Approaches and methodologies in the Social Sciences: A pluralist perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dobson, A. (2003) *Citizenship and the environment*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Dowding, K., Goodin R. and Pateman, C. (eds.) (2004) *Justice and Democracy: Essays for Brian Barry*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gargarella, R. and Ovejero, F. (2001) *Razones para el Socialismo*. Barcelona: Paidós.
- Gargarella, R. (1996) *Las teorías de la justicia después de Rawls*. Barcelona: Ariel.
- Gaus, G. F. & Kukathas, C. (eds.) (2004) *Handbook of Political Theory*. SAGE Publications.
- Geoghegan, V., and Wilford, R. (eds.) (2014) *Political Ideologies*. London: Routledge.
- Gilligan, C. (1982) *In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women's Development*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Kymlicka, W. (2002) *Contemporary Political Philosophy. An Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.*
- Kymlicka, W. (1995) *Multicultural Citizenship: A Liberal Theory of Minority Rights*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.*
- Máiz, R. (ed.) (2009) *Teorías políticas contemporáneas*. València: Tirant lo Blanch.
- Marchetti, R. (2008) *Global Democracy: For and Against*. Oxon: Routledge.
- Miller, D. (2007) *National Responsibility and Global Justice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Miller, D. (2003) *Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.*
- Miller, D. (1995) *On Nationality*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.*
- Moore, M. (ed.) (1998) *National Self-determination and Secession*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Nozick, R. (2013 [1974]) *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*. New York: Basic Books.*
- Nussbaum, M. C. (2019) *The Cosmopolitan Tradition: A Noble but Flawed Ideal*. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.
- Nussbaum, M. (1996) *For love of country*. Boston: Beacon Press.*
- Okin, S. M., and Mansbridge, J. (1994) *Feminism: Schools of Thought in Politics*. Aldershot. E. Elgar Publishing.
- Parvin, P. and Chambers, C. (2012) *Political Philosophy: A Complete Introduction*. Croydon: Teach Yourself.
- Pateman, C. (1988) *The Sexual Contract*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Patten, A. (2014) *Equal Recognition: The Moral Foundations of Minority Rights*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Rawls, J. (2008) *Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy*. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.*
- Rawls, J. (1999 [1971]) *A Theory of Justice*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press
- Rawls, J. (1999) *The Law of Peoples*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Requejo, F. and Gonzalo, E. (2009) *Desigualtats en Democràcia: Les Teories de la Justícia Socioeconòmica al Segle XXI*. Vic: Eumo Editorial.
- Requejo, F. (2002) *Democracy and National Pluralism*. London and New York: Routledge.*
- Sandel, M. (2009) *Justice: What's the right thing to do?* New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux.*
- Shapiro, I., and Hacker-Cordon, C. (eds.) (1999) *Democracy's Edges*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Singer, P. (2002), *One world: The ethics of globalization*, Yale University Press.
- Smith, A. (2001) *Nacionalismo*. Madrid: Alianza Editorial.
- Tamir, Y. (1993) *Liberal Nationalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press
- Vallespin, F. (ed.) (1990) *Historia de la Teoría Política 1*. Madrid: Alianza Editorial.
- Van Parijs, P. (2011) *Just Democracy: The Rawls-Machiavelli Programme*. Colchester: ECPR Press.
- Vergés Gifra, J. (2013) *La Nació Necessària*. Barcelona: Angle Editorial.
- Wolff, J. (1996) *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.*
- Young, I. M. (1990) *Justice and the Politics of Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

*indicates that Catalan and/or Spanish translations are available.