This seminar will discuss the current practices of and challenges to democracy in contemporary Europe and beyond. Our attention is devoted mainly to established democracies – what Schmitter refers to as the REDS, the Real Existing Democracies – and we try to focus the discussion on the problems facing traditional institutions, and the ways in which these are being changed or reformed to meet new challenges. We look at parties and elections, at representative and direct democracy, and at deliberative democracy and e-democracy. We explore the evidence for and the sources of citizen dissatisfaction and disaffection, and we have two concluding sessions that review and evaluate a host of concrete proposals for reforming and reviving participation and accountability.

Participants in the seminar are expected to read and comment on all of the literature which is recommended in each session – part of the goal of the seminar is to acquaint researchers with this literature and these debates, particularly since these issues will have a prominent place on the scholarly and public agendas for some time to come. To prepare for the discussions, write a short essay (max two pages) on the required readings for each week, and send it to the convenors prior to the seminar. For the last two weeks, participants will be expected to write a brief paper arguing either for or against one of the proposals included in the Schmitter-Trechsel text assigned for the last two seminars. Finally, it is also possible to write a research paper (‘term paper’) for this course, and those who intend doing so will be given the opportunity to present their ongoing work in one or more of the meetings.

The readings are available as downloads though the library or in a protected seminar space at www.futuredem.pbworks.com
Session 1, October 6: Introductory session

- Problems of democracy
- rationale of this seminar
- organisation
- requirements

Session 2, October 9: Deliberative democracy
Guest seminar by Pepper D. Culpepper


Session 3, October 13: Party democracy and beyond


**Session 4, October 20: The challenge to party government**


**Session 5, October 27: Citizens: Distrust, Dissatisfaction, Civil Society**

Torcal, Mariano and José Ramón Montero, 2006. "Political disaffection in comparative perspective", in Mariano Torcal and José Ramón
Montero (eds), Political Disaffection in Contemporary Democracies. London: Routledge, 3-20.


Session 6, November 3: Direct Participation


Wampler, Brian, 2009. "When does participatory democracy deepen the quality of democracy? Lessons from Brazil", Comparative Politics. Early manuscript available as: http://polisci.boisestate.edu/faculty/wampler/ParticipatoryDem.pdf

Papadopoulos, Yannis and Philippe Warin, 207. "Are innovative, participatory and deliberative procedures in policy making


**Session 7, November 10: EU Democracy**  
*Guest seminar by Philippe C. Schmitter*

Readings to be announced

**Session 8, November 17: Paparazzi Democracy**


**Sessions 9 (November 24) and 10 (November 25): Reforming Democracy**