Department of Social and Political Sciences

1st term Foundation Seminar
Fall 2018

Foundations of democracy

Hanspeter Kriesi

Tuesdays 9:00 AM-11:00 AM, Badia Seminar Room 4
Registration with Maureen Lechleitner (Maureen.Lechleitner@EUI.eu)

Description
This seminar surveys some of the literature on democracy to answer questions such as these:
What are the relevant theoretical, institutional and innovative models of democracy? How can we measure democracy? What are the social, economic, cultural and political prerequisites of democracy/democratization? What effect does the political and economic performance have on the support for democracy? What about populism: is it a danger for democracy? Is democracy in decline today?

These questions are approached both from the macro-perspective of institutions and context conditions as well as from the micro-perspective of the citizens and their understanding and evaluation of the way democracy works. The literature on these questions is, of course, huge, and the selection of the texts for the seminar is, as always, highly idiosyncratic. This is the selection of a comparative political sociologist who is trying to understand the conditions under which democracy as we know it develops and flourishes, and the conditions under which it is put into question. The selection is focused on more recent publications dealing with the core issues. It also tries to take into account some debates between competing views. At the same time, several of the selected texts provide the methodological tools to approach these questions empirically. The texts are available on the special website of the seminar. By choosing to take this class you are taking on the obligation to do all the reading.

As usual in my seminars, the students are expected to submit three 500-word response papers to the readings for a given session and post that paper on the course website by noon on the day before class at the latest. These response papers are fundamental for the holding of a good discussion of the materials, as is a thorough reading of the assigned texts.

Writing a term paper is encouraged. Those who wish to write a term paper should submit it to me by email and in paper copy, with a cc to Maureen Lechleitner.
Sessions, topics and readings

1. Introduction: some theories of democracy (October 2)
   - Dahl, Robert A. 1956. *A preface to democratic theory*. The University of Chicago Press. Introduction, Chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-84), 5 (pp. 124-51) (111 pages) – Library 321.8

2. Measuring democracy: macro-level (October 9)

3. Measuring democracy: micro-level (October 16)
   - Ferrin, Monica and Hanspeter Kriesi (eds.) 2016. *How Europeans View and Evaluate Democracy*, Oxford U Press: Chapters 1, 2, 4, 9, 11, 14)
4. Institutional models of Democracy (October 23)

5. Democratization: economic development (October 30)

6. Democratization: cultural change (November 6)
   - Inglehart, Ronald and Christian Welzel 2005. *Modernization, cultural change, and democracy. The human development sequence*, Cambridge U Press, Chapters 7 and 8: The causal link between democratic values and democratic institutions (pp. 149-209)

7. **Political and economic performance (November 13)**


8. **Populism (November 20)**

• Rovira Kaltwasser, Cristóbal, Paul Taggart, Paulina Ochoa Espejo, and Pierre Ostiguy (eds.) 2017. *The Oxford Handbook of Populism*
  
  
  o Mudde, Cas 2017. Populism: An Ideational Approach, pp. 27-48
  
  o Weyland, Kurt 2017. Populism: A Political-Strategic Approach, pp. 49-72
  
  o Urbinati, Nadia 2017. Populism and the Principle of Majority, pp. 572-589
  
  
  
  
  
  o De la Torre, Carlos 2017. Populism in Latin America, pp. 196-213.
  
  o Taggart, Paul 2017. Populism in Western Europe, pp. 249-263.
  

9. **Democracy in crisis (November 27)**


- Levitsky, Steven and Daniel Ziblatt 2018. *How democracies die*, N.Y.: Introduction, Chapters 1, 8, 9 (pp. 1-32, 176-231) - Library 321.8

10. **Democratic innovations: the model of direct democracy (December 4)**

- The Bartels-Lupia debate on the 2001 Bush tax cuts: