IDS2935 Democracy in Theory and Action
Fall 2023
Honors Program

General Education: Humanities, Writing Requirement (2000 words)
[Note: A minimum grade of ‘C’ is required for General Education Credit]

Time: MWF 3-3.50PM
Venue: LEI0142

Instructor:
Dr Ifigeneia Giannadaki, Assistant Professor and Cassas Chair in Greek Studies
Web: https://florida.academia.edu/IfigeneiaGiannadaki
Office: Dauer Hall 115A
Office hours: TBC
E-mail address: giannadaki.if[at]ufl.edu

Course Description
This course will showcase the lively dialogue between ancient democracy and modern, tackling some of the most pressing issues of our times, including the limits of political participation and the real power of the people, the elitism of politics and distrust of modern politicians, the limits of free speech and the role of the press/media in modern politics and in shaping public opinion. This dialogue between democracy ancient and modern will be discussed from comparative approach of democratic principles, political institutions, civic rights, limits of political participation, and criticisms to the democratic government, in the ancient world and in our times. These topics are also essential to approach both political history and political theory: evolution as against stability, freedom and equality, law and popular sovereignty, cultural ideals and practice. Finally, through a wealth of topics to be discussed and debated in the classroom, the course concludes by asking interconnected, timely and pressing questions, relevant to all modern democratic societies: is after all the democracy a good or a defective constitution? Are there better alternatives? Or is there room for political reform?

Writing Requirement
The course confers 2,000 words toward the Writing Requirement (WR), which ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. The writing course grade assigned by the instructor has two components: the writing component and a course grade. To receive writing credit a student must satisfactorily complete all the assigned written work and receive a minimum grade of C (2.0) for the course. It is possible to not meet the writing requirement and still earn a minimum grade of C in a class, so students should review their degree audit after receiving their grade to verify receipt of credit for the writing component.

The University’s Humanities and General Education Requirements
The course fulfils the UF Quest 1 requirements and 3 credits of the Humanities General Education requirement.
Weekly Schedule  
*(Subject to adjustment depending on the pace/needs of the class)*

There are three hours of instruction each week (two lectures and one seminar) led by the instructor.

**Week 1: 23 Aug.-25 Aug.**  
**Introduction/class administration**  
Optional reading:  
Orwell, G. ‘Politics and the English Language’.

**Week 2: 28 Aug.-1 Sept.**  
**Athenian democracy: fundamental principles and political ideology.**  
Required reading:  
[Aristotle] *The Constitution of the Athenians* 5-11 (Solon), 20-22 (Kleisthenes)  
**Quiz 1 due Friday**

**Week 3: 4 Sept. – 8 Sept.**  
**Athenian democracy and modern democracies: major differences and similarities**  
Required reading:  
Thucydides, Book 2, chapters 34-46.  
**Quiz 2 due Friday**

**4 Sept.: NO CLASS (Holiday)**

**Week 4: 11 Sept. – 15 Sept.**  
**Political institutions: the Assembly, the Council and the Courts.**  
Required reading:  
Carey, C. 2017 *The Democracy of Classical Athens*, 57-77.  

Optional reading:  
**Quiz 3 due Friday**

**Week 5: 18 Sept. – 22 Sept.**  
**Political institutions in the modern democracies. Rule by the people?**  
Required reading:  

Quiz 4 due Friday

Deadline for paper, first submission: 22 Sept. 11:59PM

Athenian legal system in comparison with modern civil law and common law systems
Required reading:
Demosthenes 22
Quiz 5 due Friday

Week 7: 2 Oct. – 6 Oct.
Political leaders, political participation, and control of political power; accountability, checks and balances then and now.
Required reading:
Lysias 16

Optional reading:

6 Oct: No class (holiday)
No quiz

Review and exam 1
Exam 1: 13 Oct.

Politics: (not) a woman’s job? Women’s political rights: ancient Greek political thought and the position of women in the 21st century.
Required reading:

Quiz 6 due Friday

Freedom of speech in Classical Athens (*parrhesia*) and today. Fake news: too much freedom of speech or lack of?

Required reading:
Plato, *Apology*; Herodotus *Histories* Book 5. 78, 92. α 1


Quiz 7 due Friday

**Paper second submission due: Friday 27 Oct. 11:59PM**

**Week 11:** 30 Oct. – 3 Nov.
State record-keeping and access to information in the ancient Greek world and the era of the ‘social media politics’

Required Reading:
Marwick, A. and Lewis, R. 2017 ‘Media manipulation and disinformation online’, pp. 4-39

Optional reading:
Sickinger, 1999 ‘Literacy, Documents, and Archives in the Ancient Athenian Democracy’, *The American Archivist* 62, 229-246

Quiz 8 due Friday

**Reflective Essay due: 3 Nov. 11:59PM**

**Week 12:** 6 Nov. – 10 Nov.

Criticisms to Athenian democracy and modern democratic states.

Required Reading:

Optional Reading:

No quiz

10 Nov.: No class (holiday)

**Week 13:** 13 Nov. – 17 Nov.
Is after all the democracy a defective constitution?
Required reading:
Quiz 9 due Friday

Week 14: 20 Nov. – 24 Nov.
Are there better alternatives to democracy in action?
22 Nov-24 Nov.: no classes (holiday)
No quiz

Week 15: 27 Nov.-1 Dec.
Democracy in the 21st c.

Required reading:


Quiz 10 due Friday

Week 16: 4 Dec.-6 Dec.
Review and Exam 2
Review
Exam 2: 6 Dec.

Required Books and Readings

Required book chapters and articles are provided on Canvas (if published/available as e-books) and/or in the Course reserve for this course in Library West, in hard copies. It is responsibility of the students to access the resources available in the libraries of the University of Florida, or buy their own copies of books, if they so wish.

NB. It is students’ responsibility to prepare the required readings IN TIME.


Readings (i.e. required articles and chapters from the following books)
Brennan, J. 2017 Against Democracy, pp. 182-203.
Carey, C. 2017 The Democracy in Classical Athens, Bloomsbury.
Marwick, A. and Lewis, R. 2017 ‘Media manipulation and disinformation online’.

Source Materials
Important Source Materials (available online at no additional cost; all links to source materials will be available on Canvas; the same applies to PowerPoints and other course materials):

- Thucydides, History book 2.34-46
- Demosthenes, speech 22 (Against Androtion)
- Herodotus Histories Book 5. 78, 92. a 1
- Lysias, speech 16 (On Behalf of Mantitheos)
- Plato, Apology
- Pseudo-Xenophon, The Constitution of the Athenians

Required Referencing Style for Writing Assignments: students must use the APA reference and citation style in their writing assignments. It is students’ responsibility to consult the suggested books on style and referencing and familiarize themselves with the required citation style for their assignments. Available here: https://apastyle.apa.org/instructional-aids/reference-examples.pdf

Recommended Writing Guide and Information about Citations

Citation Management Guide from UF Libraries
Writing Studio

It is also highly recommended to take advantage of the rich resources offered by the University Writing Studio. The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online (https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/) or in 302 Tigert Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

Grading

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C). Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Completion credit.

Grades for the Course will be calculated through evaluation of the following assignments:

1. 10 on-line quizzes = 20%
2. first exam = 20%
3. second exam = 20%
4. Attendance = 10%
5. Paper = 18% (i.e. 9%=draft paper submission; 9%=final paper submission)
6. Reflective essay = 12%
   TOTAL = 100%

Grading Scale

I record your points on all assignments over the course of the semester in the Canvas gradebook, which translates total points into a letter grade using a standard grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>to 94.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>&lt; 94.0%</td>
<td>to 90.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>&lt; 90.0%</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>&lt; 60.0%</td>
<td>to 0.0%</td>
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More information on UF grading policy is available here.

Assignments
1. 10 online quizzes (online submission via Canvas link)
2. Exam 1 (paper submission, in class)
3. Exam 2 (paper submission, in class)
4. Attendance
   Attendance Grading: Attendance will be taken using “Roll Call” in Canvas. Your grade is based on the number of times you attend, divided by the number of times our class meets. Up to three unexcused absences are allowed; over three unexcused absences will incur grade deductions, as per ‘Roll Call Attendance’ policy. It is students’ responsibility to cover the material missed because of unexcused absences. No make-up work will be offered as a result of an unexcused absence. See ‘Make Up Work’ and ‘Accommodations’.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

NB. Participation in the lectures and seminars is highly encouraged for the enhancement of critical skills and better understanding of the topics discussed over the semester.

5. Paper (2,000 words, strictly); first submission due: 22 September (=9%); second submission due: 27 October. (Online submission via Canvas link)

6. Reflective essay (350-400 words, strictly), due: 4 Nov. 11:59PM. (Online submission via Canvas link)

NB Required readings are due each Wednesday; online quizzes are due on Fridays, as per schedule. It is students’ responsibility to cover the reading and submit their answers to the quizzes IN TIME. Students must also ensure that they have reliable internet connection and appropriate hardware to access the online quizzes or use the University’s facilities.

General Writing Assessment Rubric: This will be used for all writing assessments.

This rubric will be used for all writing assignments for this course. Column ‘Unsatisfactory’ illustrates the deficiencies and problems of a writing assignment which will lead to a failing grade ‘E’. The elements in column ‘Satisfactory’ illustrate the various positive qualities which lead to marks A-D depending on the quality of these elements in the students’ papers. Each of the five elements of a writing assessment (i.e. content, organization etc) will be graded in the scale of 0-20 points. The total number of points (out of 100%) will equal the grade for the assignment.
Example: a paper received the following number of points for each of these five elements. 
*Content*: 17/20, organization/coherence: 20/20, argument/support: 16/20, style: 19/20, mechanics 20/20. Therefore, the grade to this writing assignment is (17+20+16+19+20)= 92%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0-20 points</th>
<th>Satisfactory (Y)</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory (N)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONTENT</td>
<td>Papers exhibit at least some evidence of ideas that respond to the topic with complexity, critically evaluating and synthesizing sources, and provide at least an adequate discussion with basic understanding of sources.</td>
<td>Papers either include a central idea(s) that is unclear or off-topic or provide only minimal or inadequate discussion of ideas. Papers may also lack sufficient or appropriate sources.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORGANIZATION AND COHERENCE</td>
<td>Documents and paragraphs exhibit at least some identifiable structure for topics, including a clear thesis statement but may require readers to work to follow progression of ideas.</td>
<td>Documents and paragraphs lack clearly identifiable organization, may lack any coherent sense of logic in associating and organizing ideas, and may also lack transitions and coherence to guide the reader.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARGUMENT AND SUPPORT</td>
<td>Documents use persuasive and confident presentation of ideas, strongly supported with evidence. At the weak end of the Satisfactory range, documents may provide only generalized discussion of ideas or may provide adequate discussion but rely on weak support for arguments.</td>
<td>Documents make only weak generalizations, providing little or no support, as in summaries or narratives that fail to provide critical analysis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>STYLE</td>
<td>Documents use a writing style with word choice appropriate to the context, genre, and discipline. Sentences should display complexity and logical sentence structure. At a</td>
<td>Documents rely on word usage that is inappropriate for the context, genre, or discipline. Sentences may be overly long or short with awkward construction. Documents may also use</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
minimum, documents will display a less precise use of vocabulary and an uneven use of sentence structure or a writing style that occasionally veers away from word choice or tone appropriate to the context, genre, and discipline.

words incorrectly

| MECHANICS | Papers will feature correct or error-free presentation of ideas. At the weak end of the Satisfactory range, papers may contain some spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors that remain unobtrusive so they do not muddy the paper’s argument or points. |
| Papers contain so many mechanical or grammatical errors that they impede the reader’s understanding or severely undermine the writer’s credibility. |

Student Learning Outcomes
Reflecting the curricular structures of *Quest 1 and these Gen Ed designations*, after taking Democracy in Theory and Action, students will be able to:

1. Identify, describe, and explain the historical processes involved in the passage of humanity into the era of social and political organization under democratic constitutions, and of the history of political thought from ancient Greece to modern times, political power and justice, socio-political inquiry, rational quest, experimentation and the study of democracy in action from a comparative viewpoint for the benefit of human communities diachronically, as well as the flourishing of human communities under democratic organization. (*Content SLOs for Gen Ed Hum, and Q1*).
   - Objective will be accomplished by: reading theoretical scholarship on democracy (required readings of secondary literature and source materials), ancient and modern, on a weekly basis, as specified in the thematic arrangement of the course in the Syllabus; group discussions over the themes to be explored, in seminars (one seminar/week); highly participatory lectures (two each week), seeking maximum engagement between the instructor and the learner, over the learning process.

2. Analyze and evaluate some important culture texts from the early Greek political theorists, historians and active politicians, as well as some comparable key-texts on modern political thought and democratic government, using established practices appropriate to the arts and humanities (*Critical Thinking*).
• Objective will be accomplished by: Lectures on the assigned readings (modern bibliography and primary sources) and guided question and answer over the highly participatory lectures (two lectures/week).

3. Analyze and evaluate how political thought and analysis (and critique) of democratic government initially developed in Greece and explain how their employment can be applied to significantly understand modern socio-political and economic organization and development of modern societies of the western world (Critical Thinking).
   • Objective will be accomplished by: In class lectures and discussion, readings, weekly quizzes, writing assignments.

4. Analyze and evaluate essential questions about the progress of humanity on the basis of socio-political organization under democratic government from a comparative perspective. (Critical Thinking).
   • Objective will be accomplished by: weekly lectures, weekly quizzes, written assignments.

5. Observe and evaluate the role arts and humanities play in the lives of individuals and societies and the role they might play in students’ undergraduate degree programs. (Communication).
   • Objective will be accomplished by: in class discussions, guided visit to Harn Museum (tour and talk); personal reflection essay (experiential learning)

6. Analyze, evaluate, and critically reflect on connections between course content and their intellectual, personal, and professional development at UF and beyond (Critical Thinking).
   • Objective will be accomplished by: in class participatory lectures, group discussions in seminars, Harn Museum visit (tour and talk), personal reflection essay (experiential learning)

7. Develop and present clear and effective responses to essential questions about the political thought in action, democracy ancient and modern, and other relevant humanities disciplines intersected during the course into the course (Communication).
   • Objective will be accomplished by: in class discussions, writing assignments paper, personal reflection essay (experiential learning), and written exams.

8. Connect course content with critical reflection on their intellectual, personal, and professional development at UF and beyond. (Connection).
   • Objective will be accomplished by: in class discussions (lectures, seminars), paper, Harn Museum visit (tour and talk), personal reflection essay (experiential learning)

UF student honor code, original work, and plagiarism
UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment’.” The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sscr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are
You are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

Original thought, writing, and discussion is critical for core questions about our place in the natural world and for meaningful discussions about culture and nature. Please be thoughtful and meticulous in your citations. This video offers useful information for how to avoid plagiarism and cite appropriately: https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/adaa44500eaf460a84f238e6b9a558f9

If you have any questions, please ask your instructor.

Plagiarism on any assignment will result in a 0 for that assignment. A second incident of plagiarism will result in a failing grade (E) for the course.

Class Attendance and Make-up Policy
Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Students Requiring Accommodations
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation
Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction as they perceive it in this course—considering their attendance and participation levels and opportunities they actively took to engage in the learning process and fulfill the course requirements—by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/.

Important Student Wellness Resources

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center:

https://counseling.ufl.edu/, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
**Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**


**Honors Academic Resources**

Honors Program, 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519
Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu

**Materials and Supplies Fees**

There are no additional fees for this course.

**Course Policies**

*It is students’ responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Course Policies and comply with them*

1. It is responsibility of the students to consult the Canvas shell of the class ahead of each session and complete the required work.

2. Students are expected to check their email correspondence regularly to ensure that they receive critical correspondence, updates, etc communicated by the instructor.

3. If a student misses a lecture or seminar, it is the student’s responsibility to find out the material taught from the Canvas shell, ask their classmates for any notes, and cover the material of the lecture/seminar missed during a given absence.

4. **Attendance is required for this course.** The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

5. There will be no make-up work except in extraordinary and documented cases. I must have written documentation within 24 hours for any medical or other emergencies which result in a missed test or late essay. **Late submission for any non-legitimate reason beyond reasons that the university recognizes as legitimate (e.g. sudden illness, family emergencies etc) will be penalized by deducting 30% of the grade of the late assignment, i.e. submission within 24 hours from the missed deadline:** e.g. if a student submits an assignment from a minute passing the deadline until 24 hours after the deadline, and their assignment was granted a 70%, their final mark after penalty is 40% (70-30%). **Submissions beyond the 24 hours will be marked with a ‘zero’**.
6. The use of cellular devices during the lectures is strictly prohibited. Refusal to comply results in immediate dismissal from class. Any disruptive behaviour which affects the delivery of the lecture by the instructor or the attention or performance of students in group-work will not be tolerated, as per University rules (see the Orange Book). The students are strongly encouraged to read the Orange Book: https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2018/08/The-Orange-Book-Web.pdf

7. If you are experiencing difficulties which have an impact on your academic performance in the course—for example, if you fail the first exam—you must arrange for an appointment with the instructor, at your earliest convenience.