

Democracy Core
Autumn: Democracy's Life and Death

What is a democracy? How are democracies established and maintained? What are their advantages and disadvantages with respect to stability, security, liberty, equality, and justice? Why do democracies decline and die? We address these questions by examining democracies and republics in ancient Europe. We read and discuss primary literary and historiographical texts from, and social scientific analyses of, Athenian democracy and the Roman republic.

Required Texts

1. Paul Cartledge, *Democracy: A Life* (Oxford, 2016)
2. Aristophanes, *Four Plays: Clouds, Birds, Lysistrata, Women of the Assembly*, trans. Aaron Poochigian (Liveright, 2021)
3. Livy, *The Rise of Rome* (Oxford, 2009)
4. Sallust, *The Jugurthine War/The Conspiracy of Catiline* (Penguin, 2008)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Participation	20%
Canvas Postings/Portfolio Critique	20%
Short Paper #1	30%
Short Paper #2	30%
Total	100%

Class Participation: I take attendance each session and expect you to participate in class discussions/in-class activities. To do so effectively, read all of the weekly assigned material **BEFORE** the class meets (e.g. you will read all of the readings listed under Thursday of Week Two *before* the class meets on Tuesday of Week Two). Remember – a good participator is one who speaks, but also one who knows how to listen to others. And, if you find you are having trouble speaking in class, please talk to me in office hours about what we can do to make it more comfortable for you.

Canvas Postings: Over the quarter, you will be responsible for **making 10 posts** on the Canvas site by *8pm the night before class*. Your posts should be substantive responses to readings (of 300-350 words). Please compose your postings in a Word (or the equivalent) and then cut and paste your postings into the Canvas Discussion board. You will also be responding for responding to the posts of your peers on **10 occasions** (approx. 100 words)

Portfolio Critique: **On June 4th by 5pm**, you will copy and paste all your response posts (*not* your posts on other people's posts) into a separate document to make a portfolio. You will write a two-page critique of your posts, critically analyzing your understanding of the material. In particular, you will discuss how your understanding of the material may differ from the beginning of class, and address whether or not you would write differently about any of the

authors now. This critique will be turned in, along with the portfolio, during finals. This should be one document. Additional instructions will be provided.

Papers: You will write two short, 3-5 page papers. One will be due **on the Friday of Week 6 by 5pm and one on Friday, June 4th by 5pm**. Both are to be submitted through Canvas. Specific instructions will be provided closer to the dates.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Part I. Athenian Democracy

Week One	WHAT WAS DEMOCRACY? WHAT IS A POLIS?
T 3/30	Introduction to course (no reading)
Th 4/1	How to Approach Ancient Greek Democracy Read Cartledge, <i>Democracy</i> , prologue & ch. 1-2
Week Two	THE BIRTH OF DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC "THEORY"
T 4/6	The Reforms of Solon and Cleisthenes Read Cartledge, <i>Democracy</i> , ch. 3-4; Herodotus, 5.66-5.78; Thucydides, 6.53-6.59.
Th 4/8	Theorizing Democracy Read Herodotus 3.80-82; Thucydides, 2.36-42 ("Pericles' Funeral Oration"); Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> Book IV, ch. 2-4.
Week Three	DRAWING THE BOUNDARIES OF DEMOCRACY
T 4/13	Read Plato, <i>Republic</i> (noble lie passages, 414b-417a) and Kasimis, "Plato's Open Secret." Re-read "Pericles' Funeral Oration" in Thucydides.
Th 4/15	Read Lape, "Solon and the Institution of the 'Democratic' Family Form" and Lysias, "On the Killing of Eratosthenes"
Week Four	STASIS, PERENNIAL THREAT
T 4/20	Theorizing Political Change, Collapse, and Revolution Read selections from Thucydides on Corcyra and Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> Book V
Th 4/22	Read Aristophanes, <i>Lysistrata</i>
Week Five	OVERTHROWING DEMOCRACY?
T 4/27	Read Cartledge, ch. 8 & Thucydides, selections from Book VI
Th 4/29	Read Cartledge, ch. 13 & Aristophanes, <i>Assemblywomen</i>
Week Six	
T 5/4	Teegarden, <i>Death to Tyrants!: Ancient Greek Democracy</i>

and the Struggle against Tyranny, pp. 15-56

Part II. The Roman Republic

- Th 5/6 INTRODUCTION TO THE RISE OF ROME
 WAS ROME A DEMOCRATIC OR OLIGARCHIC REPUBLIC?
 Read Millar, "The Political Character of the Classical Roman Republic" and
 Millar, "Politics, Persuasion, and the People before the Social War"
 [optional reading: Cartledge, ch. 15.]
- Week Seven FOUNDINGS, REFOUNDINGS & THE SPECTACLE OF SEXUAL
 VIOLENCE**
- T 5/11 Brutus, Lucretia, and the *Res Publica*
 Read Livy, *The Rise of Rome* preface and Book I 1–21; 46–60.
- Th 5/13 Appius, Verginia, and the Uprising of the Plebs
 Read Beard, *SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome*, Livy, *The Rise of Rome* III.44–
 58.
- Week Eight CONSPIRATORIAL MOVES**
- T 5/18 The Bacchanalian Conspiracy
 Read Livy, *The Rise of Rome* XXXIX.9-18 (not in book but on Canvas)
- Th 5/20 Read Sallust, *The Conspiracy of Catiline*
- Week Nine INSTABILITY, CIVIL WAR, & THE PRINCIPATE'S ESTABLISHMENT**
- T 5/25 Read Cicero, *Pro Caelio*
- Th 5/27 Read Augustus, selections from *Res Gestae*