

# Democracy and Diversity

2<sup>nd</sup> Semester 2019 / 20

Syllabus

## *Time and Room:*

Friday, 12-15 (group 1: students who intend to write their Bachelor's Thesis), OMHP C1.23

Friday, 15-18 (group 2: students who do not intend to write their Bachelor's Thesis), OMHP C2.17

*ECTS:* 6

*Professor:* dr. Daniel Loick

*Email:* [d.loick@uva.nl](mailto:d.loick@uva.nl)

*Office Hours:* Thursdays, 15-16 h, please register in advance via email!

## *Description:*

The relationship between democracy and diversity is ambivalent from the outset. On the one hand, the notion of popular sovereignty is based on the idea of the people as a unified collective subject, implying a shared and relatively homogeneous culture. On the other hand, a vital democracy seems to depend on a plurality of interests, viewpoints, and opinions being exchanged in the public sphere. In this class, we will first familiarize ourselves with classical and contemporary debates about the role of plurality and dissent within republican, liberal, and radical understandings of democracy. A special focus will be on the question of multiculturalism and the politics of recognition. Furthermore, we will explore the constitutive exclusions and dismissals that modern democracy rests on, especially with respect to the gendered structure as well as the (post-) colonial heritage of Western democracies. Finally, we will critically examine the current attempts to overcome or curb the diversity of globalized societies through violent measures of segregation, fortification and exclusion.

We will read texts by Rousseau, Mill, Kymlicka, Taylor, Mouffe, Arendt, Young, Chakrabarty, Mbembe and Brown, among others.

## *Teaching Goals:*

After successfully completing this course, students will have:

- familiarized themselves with the most important classical and contemporary positions on the connection between democracy and diversity,
- be able to critically apply these approaches in order to analyze recent social and political developments,
- improved their analytical and hermeneutical skills.

## *Format:*

3 hours seminar per week. It is absolutely essential to read the assigned texts thoroughly. The texts will be made available through Canvas.

The seminar has the following structure: 1. Introduction by the teacher, 2. Group discussion, 3. General class discussion; with a 15 minutes break.

## *Examen:*

In order to successfully complete this course, you have to:

- attend class regularly and well prepared,
- actively participate in class discussion,
- post two questions about the assigned texts in the canvas forum every week (deadline: Thursdays, 20.00 h); you may miss posting your questions only once,
- write an essay about one of the questions handed out in the last session (about 3000-4000 words). Deadline for submission of the essays (via email) is April 5<sup>th</sup>, 24.00 h. An extension of the deadline is only possible in serious exceptions. The final grade of the class will be based solely on the essay, not on the submitted questions.
- Please take notice of UvA's regulations on plagiarism and fraud.

*Class climate:*

Creating a respectful, inclusive and attentive atmosphere in the classroom is the shared responsibility of teacher and students. This includes reflecting on the different backgrounds, experiences and social positionings among the participants, a sensibility with regard to one's own conduct in the classroom, and an openness towards other perspectives and opinions. The seminar aims at including all students and thus attempts to reduce structural disadvantages. Please contact me with any discomfort with regard to the class climate (email address see above).

Please refrain from using mobile phones in class (unless in personal emergencies).

*Program:*

February 7<sup>th</sup>: Democracy and Diversity: Classical Debates

- Jean-Jacques Rousseau [1762], *The Social Contract*, New York 1994: Oxford University Press, ch. I.7 + II.3 (pp. 56-58, 66-67).
- James Madison [1787], "Federalist No. 10", in Hamilton, Madison, Jay, *The Federalist Papers*, New York 2009: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 49-54
- John Stuart Mill [1859], "Of Individuality, as One of the Elements of Well-Being", in *On Liberty*, New Haven 2003: Yale University Press, pp. 121-138

February 14<sup>th</sup>: Democracy and Diversity: Contemporary Debates

- John Rawls [1989], "The Domain of the Political and Overlapping Consensus", in *Collected Papers*, ed. Samuel Freeman, Cambridge 2001: Harvard University Press, pp. 473-496.
- Charles Taylor, "The Politics of Recognition", in *Multiculturalism. Examining the Politics of Recognition*, ed. Amy Gutman et al, Princeton 1994: Princeton University Press, section I, pp. 25-37
- Will Kymlicka, "Freedom and Culture", in *Multicultural Citizenship. A Liberal Theory of Minority Rights*, Oxford 1995: Clarendon Press, pp. 75-106

February 21<sup>st</sup>: Pluralism

- Hannah Arendt [1958], *The Human Condition*, Chicago 1998: University of Chicago Press, chs. 24 + 28, pp. 175-181, 199-207
- Hannah Arendt, "Introduction into Politics", in *The Promise of Politics*, New York 2005: Schocken, pp. 93-96, 108-117

- William Connolly, “Confessing Identity/Belonging to Difference”, in *Identity/Difference. Democratic Negotiations of Political Paradox*, Minneapolis 1991: University of Minnesota Press, pp. xiii-xxx

#### February 28<sup>th</sup>: Antagonism and Agonism

- Carl Schmitt [1932], *The Concept of the Political*, Chicago 1995: University of Chicago Press, sections 2, 3, 6, pp. 25-37, 53-58
- Chantal Mouffe, “Politics and the Political”, in *On the Political*, New York 2005: Routledge, pp. 8-34

#### March 6<sup>th</sup>: Gender and the Politics of Difference

- Carol Gilligan, “Women’s Rights and Women’s Judgment”, in *In a Different Voice. Psychological Theory and Women’s Development*, Cambridge 1982: Harvard University Press, pp. 128-150
- Iris Marion Young, “Social Movements and the Politics of Difference”, in *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, Princeton 1990: Princeton University Press, pp. 156-191

#### March 13<sup>th</sup>: (Post-) Colonial Dismissals

- Dipesh Chakrabarty, “Postcoloniality and the Artifice of History”, in *Provincializing Europe. Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*, Princeton 2000: Princeton University Press, pp. 27-46
- Boaventura de Sousa Santos, Joao Arriscado Nunes, Maria Paula Meneses, “Opening Up the Canon of Knowledge and Recognition of Difference”, in *Another Knowledge is Possible. Beyond Northern Epistemologies*, ed. Boaventura de Sousa Santos, London/New York 2008: Verso, pp. xix-lxii

#### March 20<sup>th</sup>: Segregation

- Wendy Brown, “Waning Sovereignty, Walled Democracy”, in *Walled States, Waning Sovereignty*, New York 2010: Zone, pp. 7-42
- Achille Mbembe, “The Society of Enmity”, in *Necropolitics*, Durham 2019: Duke University Press, pp. 42-65

#### *Concluding Discussion*