

Columbia University
Department of Political Science

G6601 Issues in Political Theory
Fall 2006

Instructors: Professors Jean L. Cohen and Nadia Urbinati

Cohen's Office: 729 International Affairs Building
Urbinati's Office: 712 International Affairs Building

Seminar: Tuesday 2:10pm-4:00pm
Classroom: 717 IAB

Office hours:
Cohen, Monday 4:00-5:00pm or by appointment
Urbinati, Wednesday 12:1:30 or by appointment

The course will be held in a seminar format. This seminar is primarily intended for those who plan to take the Comprehensive Examination (either as a major or a minor) in Political Theory or who wish to fulfill the third field requirement in Political Theory. However, it is open to all graduate students with the proviso that, if 25 or more students in the three categories listed above wish to register, no enrollment will be accepted from others. All students in the three categories listed above will be accepted, even if their number exceeds 25. If the course is oversubscribed, preference will be given to those committed to taking it for a letter grade as against an R.

The course does not cover the comps requirement in its entirety and inevitably it has to be selective in the choice of topics to be discussed. WE have chosen to discuss issues, within the areas of the comps examination that are part of the satellites and the subject of debate among political theorists. It must be emphasized that it will be necessary for students to do more reading than that contained in the weekly assignments to have a reasonable prospect of passing comps.

Structure

Beginning in week 2 (September 12), each session will begin by discussing one or two pre-circulated short papers written by students. Each student (including those taking the course for an R) will be required to write at least one such paper in the course of the semester. These papers must not exceed 3 pages in length (double spaced; 900 words) and must contain only points of discussion. Knowledge of the readings for the week should be assumed. Summary of the reading, except in the case and as far as they are integral to the

questions raised, are to be avoided. Papers will be distributed to participants by e-mail. They must be posted before midnight on the Sunday preceding the session for which they are required.

Grades

Grades will be based on a take-home examination. Take-home examination will be based on two sets of question: questions related to Part I and questions related to Part II. Candidates will be asked to answer four questions, two from Part I and two from Part II. The introductory papers will not enter explicitly into the final grade. However, where the average of grade on take-home examination lies between two grades, the paper and contributions to the class generally will be taken into account to reach a definite grade.

The take-home examination will be handed out on December 8. Answers should be deposited in our mailbox by 4:00pm. Late answers will be heavily penalized, unless late delivery is cleared in advance with me on a medical/personal basis.

Books required (available at Labyrinth and On Reserve):

Brian Barry, Culture and Equality (Harvard)
Steven Lukes, ed., Power (New York University Press)
John Rawls, Justice as Fairness: A Restatement (Harvard)
James Bohman and William Rehg, eds., Deliberative Democracy
Jürgen Habermas, Between Facts and Norms (MIT)
Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom (Knopf)
Will Kymlicka, Multicultural Citizenship (Oxford)
Beitz, Cohen, Scanlon, and Simmons, eds., International Ethics, A Philosophy and Public Affairs Reader.

On Reserve and in Study Pack [SP] to be purchased at Village Copier:

Bottomore, ed., Class, Citizenship and Social Development
Michael Walzer, Spheres of Justice
Jürgen Habermas, The Inclusion of the Other
Jon Elster and Slagstad, ed., Constitutionalism and Democracy
Bernard Manin, The Principles of Representative Government
Hanna F. Pitkin, The Concept of Representation
Nadia Urbinati, Representative Democracy
Anne Phillips, The Politics of Presence
Melissa Williams, Voice, Trust, and Memory,
Brian Barry, Democracy, Power and Justice
Jon Elster, Ulysses and the Sirens
David Miller, On Nationality
Thomas Pogge, World Poverty and Human Rights

David Miller and Sohail H. Hashmi, eds., Boundaries and Justice: Diverse Ethical Perspectives
Elisabetta Galeotti, Toleration as Recognition (this book can also be read as an e-book)
Jürgen Habermas, The Divided West (to be released on Sept. 21, 2006)

SYLLABUS

Week 1 (September 5)

Introduction to the course

Organizational questions

Assignment of the introductory papers.

Part I: POLITICAL POWER AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Week 2 (September 12) Conceptions of Power

Essays by Weber, Arendt, Habermas, Parson and Foucault in Steven Lukes, ed., Power.

Week 3 (September 19) Boundaries

Michael Walzer, "Membership," in Spheres of Justice [SP]

Jürgen Habermas, "Citizenship and National Identity" in Between Facts and Norms, Appendix II;

Joseph H. Carens, "Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders" in Beiner, ed., Theorizing Citizenship [SP]

Jean L. Cohen, "Changing Paradigms of Citizenship and the Exclusiveness of the Demos" [SP]

Will Kymlicka, "Territorial Boundaries: A Liberal-Egalitarian Perspective," in David Miller and Sohail H. Hashmi, eds., Boundaries and Justice: Diverse Ethical Perspectives [SP]

Week 4 (September 26) Conceptions of Democracy 1: Minimalism and Formal Analysis

Adam Przeworski, “Minimalist Conception of Democracy: A Defense” in Shapiro
Hacker-Cordon, eds., Democracy’s Value [SP]
Russell Hardin, “Public choice versus democracy” [SP]
Thomas Christiano, “Social choice and democracy” [SP]
Barry, “Is Democracy Special?” in Democracy, Power and Justice [SP]

Week 5 (October 3) Conceptions of Democracy 2: Deliberative Democracy

Jürgen Habermas, Between Facts and Norms, ch. 3, 7 (pp. 296-308), and 8
(pp.341-384).
Essays by Elster (ch 1), Cohen (chs 3 and 13), Rawls (ch 4) and Knight and
Johnston (ch 9) in James Bohman and William Rehg, eds., Deliberative
Democracy;
Shapiro, “Enough of Deliberation” [SP]

Week 6 (October 10) Political Representation

Hannah Pitkin, The Concept of Representation , chs. 4, 5 [SP]
Bernard Manin, The Principles of Representative Government, chs. 4, 6 [SP]
Nadia Urbinati, Representative Democracy, ch. 1 [SP]
Jane Mansbridge, “Rethinking Representation” [SP]
Anne Phillips, The Politics of Presence ch. 2 [SP]
Melissa Williams, Voice, Trust, and Memory, ch. 2 [SP]

Week 7 (October 17) Constitutionalism and Democracy

Jon Elster, Ulysses and the Sirens II.8 (pp. 87-103) [SP]
Essays by Holmes and Ackerman in Elster and Slagstad, eds., Constitutionalism
and Democracy [SP]
Jeremy Waldron, “Disagreement and Precommitment” [SP]

Week 8 (October 24) Statism vs Cosmopolitanism

Essays by Michael Walzer in Beitz, Cohen, Scanlon, and Simmons, eds.,
International Ethics, Part IV: “The Moral Status of the Nation-State”
David Miller, On Nationality, ch. 3 [SP]

Charles Beitz, "Social and Cosmopolitan Liberalism" from *International Affairs* 75 (1999) 515-529 [SP]

Thomas Pogge, World Poverty and Human Rights, ch. 5 [SP]

Part II: JUSTICE AND EXCLUSIONS

Week 9 (October 31) Universalism/Particularism and the Scope of Democracy

Jürgen Habermas, "On the Relation between the Nation, the Rule of Law, and Democracy" in The Inclusion of the Other [SP]

Jürgen Habermas, "Does the Constitutionalization of International Law Still Have a Chance?" in The Divided West [SP] (released by Sept. 21);

Robert Dahl, "A Democratic Dilemma: System Effectiveness vs Citizen Participation", in *Political Science Quarterly* 109, Spr. 1994 23-24. [SP]

James Bohman, "From Demos to Demoi: Democracy Across Borders," in *Ratio Juris*, Vol. 18, no. 3 Sept 2005 (293-314) [SP]

Week 10 (November 14) Class Inequality, Development and Democracy

T.H. Marshall, "Citizenship and Social Classes" (ch. 4), in Bottomore, ed., Class, Citizenship and Social Development [SP]

Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom, chs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12.

Week 11 (November 21) Justice: Fairness and Impartiality [David Johnston]

Rawls, Justice as Fairness

Week 12 (November 28) Multiculturalism and Toleration

Will Kymlicka, Multicultural Citizenship, chs. 2, 3, 4, 6.

Barry, Culture and Equality, chs. 1-5, 7-8.

Anna Elisabetta Galeotti, Toleration as Recognition, chs. 2, 3, 4, 5 (e-book).

Week 13 (December 5) Review Session; Take-home examination to be distributed.

Friday December 8

Take-home examination to be dropped in our mailbox within and no later than 4pm.

