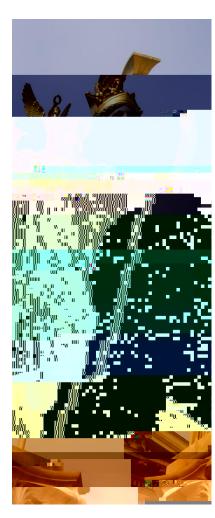


Course Description

This course is meant to expose students, in the intimate environment of the seminar (characterized by a close-knit group of people who meet to discuss a particular topic indepth), to the concept of democracy, with careful consideration of the concept and ideals of democracy. Democracy is one of those terms that is easy to define but hard to say what that would look like in the real world. We will simultaneously compare ancient democratic institutions (particularly as epitomized in 4th century Athens) with modern democratic institutions and discuss the principals necessary for a democratic society to thrive. Towards the end of the semester, we will examine various problems with democracy. both in the ancient world and in the modern world.

The general format of the course will consist of short lectures, readings from both ancient and modern writers, discussions of the readings and democracy, sho



Instructor

Nicholas Gresens nicholas.gresens@ rochester.edu

Office Hours

via Zoom by appt.

Required Texts

Aristotle and Xenophon on Democracy and Oligarchy

A Different Democracy

Democracy in Classical Athens, by Christopher Carey

Learning Outcomes

How the Grades are calculated

Generally, we will discuss the criteria that will be used to evaluate each of the different assignments. With that said, there are a few things I do generally look for:

Editing, proof-reading, and general professionalism

Organization of your idea (and make sure you have a clearly articulated argument)

Quality of your argument if you make a statement, support it either with outside support (quality sources are better than questionable ones) or fully explain your logic (proper citation is expected)

Depth of discussion: complex, original, and interesting ideas that integrate material from this course or others that you have taken are better than simple regurgitation.

An A Paper is clearly and concisely written, with original thought, fully supported with both outside sources and reasoned argument

A B Paper is clearly written with original thought, most ideas are supported with outside sources or reasoned argument

A C Paper contains some original thought, but mostly reiterates what someone else has said, and fails to support many of the ideas presented.

Course Schedule

This is a sketch outline of the semester, including topics and activities. Specific readings will be found on Blackboard. It is possible, particularly at the end of the semester, that topics will change, depending on your interests and the direction the course takes.

Wk 1 Important Terms; Ancient vs. Modern Democracy

Wk 2

this course, but I also know that developing good study habits/time-management skills is part of what you are learning here, so I am doing my best to encourage that, too.

If you must miss a class due to a school sanctioned activity, such as religious observance, academic conference, or sporting event, you must make arrangements for this before the class.

Academic Honesty Policy

You will be held to the highest standards of academic integrity in this course. The university cannot function fully without maintaining this standard. I assume that all work submitted for this class will be your own, honestly completed, and that you will not do anything to prevent your classmates from doing their best work. Anything less, including, but not limited to, plagiarism and fabrication of infor

the exam period (except what I provide) will be considered a violation of the University Academic Honesty Policy and will be dealt with quickly and appropriately. If you are unfamiliar with the policy, which has recently been updated, you can read it here: http://www.rochester.edu/college/honesty/

A word on collaboration:

You are

encouraged to discuss course readings and assignments with your fellow students. However, all written work must be done independently and not in collaboration with another. In order to make appropriate help available for your essays, I encourage you to consult with me and with the College Writing, Speaking and Argument Program. The term research paper will require citations and Works

however, be consistent throughout. If you have questions, please consult with me.

Statement of Inclusivity

The University of Rochester

Course Credit Policy

This course follows the College credit our policy for four-credit courses. This course meets twice weekly for 3 hours per week. The time you spend researching, writing and editing your final paper makes up the fourth hour. Note that this does not include time needed to complete other regular course assignments or studying. Most courses assume about 2 hours per credit hour per week of supplementary work.