**PS 400: Legitimacy and American Democracy**  
American Democracy Fellows [ADF] Course

**Term:** Fall 2015  
**Instructor:** Dr. Michelle A. Schwarze  
**Day/time:** T 4:00-5:30pm  
**Office:** 222 North Hall (2nd Floor)  
**Location:** Van Hise 387  
**Office hours:** Th 12:00pm-2:00pm and by appointment  
**Email:** mschwarze@wisc.edu

**Course Objectives**
What makes democratic government legitimate? And how has our understanding of legitimacy developed over time in the practice of American democracy? Is it still legitimate? If so, is it still *democratically* legitimate? Over the course of the semester, our seminar will explore these questions and others on the nature of authority, consent, representation, majority rule, and related concepts in the context of American democracy from the birth of the nation to the present.

**Course Materials**

*Required texts:***  
***All required books will be provided to you free of charge, thanks to the American Democracy Forum.***


*Highly recommended:*
Course Expectations & Policies

In order to achieve the goals of this course, there are a few things you must do.

1. You will need to complete the readings assigned for each day before class begins in order to prepare and submit your discussion questions and participate in our seminar discussion (more on these in the assignments section below). Be sure to also bring the relevant readings to class each day (which may mean printing them out).

2. You will need to complete your assignments on time, as I will accept no late work without an approved accommodation prior to the due date. Accommodations will be made for those students who have documented proof of an emergency.

3. You should expect our class discussions to provide you with an opportunity to thoughtfully participate and respectfully engage with both the course content and your peers’ contributions. To ensure that these fruitful discussions are possible, I ask that you are courteous to your peers—to turn off cell phones and end conversation before class begins and not use your laptops for anything besides notes—and to bring the relevant text to class each day. You will also need to actively participate in seminar discussion.

A successful course requires some things of me as well. Given that you may have questions about the subject, material, assignments, or college generally during the semester, I will be available during weekly office hours, by personal appointment and through email to answer them. I strongly encourage you to use my office hours to come discuss substantive questions or to bring in paper outlines for review.

If you email me, be sure to:

1. Address me like someone you may ask for a letter of recommendation some day rather than someone to whom you are sending a text message.
2. Expect a 24-hour response time.
3. Restrict your questions to those regarding format or logistics. I believe it is far more valuable for you to ask substantive questions in person—whether in class or during office hours—so I can give you a comprehensive response and ensure you understand what we have discussed.

I am firmly committed to ensuring equal learning access for all and therefore encourage individuals with disabilities to participate in the McBurney Center’s available programs and activities. If you need an accommodation, you should contact the center at (608) 263-2741 or mcburney@studentlife.wisc.edu to obtain documentation for your specific needs. You must do so by the end of Week 2 and you must contact me in advance to make appropriate arrangements for papers, etc.
Finally, I strictly adhere to the UW Academic Misconduct Process and will report all incidents of academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office, as it is a prerequisite for maintaining academic integrity in our course. To avoid plagiarism, be sure to use either text-specific (e.g., citations to part, section, chapter and paragraph number of Smith’s *Theory of Moral Sentiments*) or APSA-style citations unless otherwise stated ([http://www.apsanet.org/files/APSAStyleManual2006.pdf](http://www.apsanet.org/files/APSAStyleManual2006.pdf)).

**Assignments & Grading**

Your grade will be calculated according to your score(s) on assignments in the four following categories:

- **Short paper** [& optional rewrite] (20%)
- **Final paper** (25%)
- **Discussion Leader Presentations** (30%)
- **Participation** (25%)

= **Final Grade** (100%)

Your grade will be assigned according to the following grading scale:

- A ≥ 93.5
- AB = 87.5-93.4
- B = 82.5-87.4
- BC = 77.5-82.4
- C = 69.5-77.4
- D = 60-69.4
- F ≤ 59.9

**Short paper**

Your first assignment will be a **one-page single-spaced** (12 pt. Times New Roman font) response paper designed to allow you to critically engage with our texts and to develop your writing skills. You will be given a paper prompt during Week 3. This assignment is designed to help you learn how to read *carefully* by giving you an opportunity to evaluate some of our texts under a close lens. I will provide you with a grading rubric and written feedback when I return your work.

But I also want to give you the opportunity to improve. David Hume, when reflecting on the quality of his own work, emphasized a particularly important part of the learning process:

> A man who is free from mistakes can pretend to no praises except from the justness of his understanding. But a man who *corrects his mistakes* shows at once the justness of his understanding and the candour and ingenuity of his temper. (T App.1)

I couldn’t agree more with Hume’s claim and therefore want to reward those of you who are interested in exercising your candor and ingenuity in this class. To do so, I allow all
students the *option to resubmit* one-page papers. I will only include the higher score of the two submitted papers in your grade, so no student will be penalized for resubmission.

**Final paper**

Your final paper (10-12 double-spaced pages, 12 pt. Times New Roman font), **due Tuesday, December 8th**, will ask you to develop an answer to the question, “what makes democratic government legitimate?” using primary sources for our class readings to defend your position. You will need to submit a thesis and annotated bibliography for your final paper by **Tuesday, November 10th** (Week 11). I will provide a handout with more information about your final paper at the end of Week 4.

**Discussion Leader Presentation**

Each class, one student will be assigned to lead discussion for the first 30 minutes of class. Each student will be expected to do 2 presentations during the semester. Discussion Leaders will be responsible for reviewing the readings assigned and the discussion questions submitted by their fellow classmates, preparing some questions to get discussion going, and moderating discussion for the first part of class. I will provide a handout with more information about Discussion Leader presentations during Week 3.

**Participation**

Your participation grade will be calculated based on two things: 1) **weekly discussion questions** submitted online through Learn@UW and 2) the quantity and quality of your **participation in class**. You will be expected to submit one discussion question on Learn@UW by no later than 2:30pm the day before each class (i.e. Mondays). I will not evaluate the content of these questions, but they should either be a clarification question or a substantive question on the assigned readings that you think would be useful to discuss in class. The discussion leader will use these questions to prepare their comments.

**Class Schedule**

*NOTE:* all readings with * will be given later in the semester.

*No class Week 1*

**Week 2**

9/8: Introduction, syllabus review + discussion leader signups and information

**Theories of Democratic Legitimacy**

**Week 3**


*Discussion Leader: Katelyn*

**SHORT PAPER PROMPT GIVEN**

**DUE: SYLLABUS AGREEMENT**
**Week 4**

Discussion Leader: Omer

**FINAL PAPER PROMPT GIVEN**

**Week 5**

Discussion Leader: Casey

**Week 6**

Discussion Leader: Riley

DUE: SHORT PAPER

*Procedural and Substantive Legitimacy in American Democracy*

**Week 7**
10/13: Constitution & Declaration of Independence

Discussion Leader: Autumn

**Week 8**
10/20: *The Federalist* # 1, 9, 10 (pgs. 1-4, 37-49)

Discussion Leader: Katelyn

DUE: OPTIONAL REWRITE

**Week 9**

Discussion Leader: Omer

**Week 10**
11/3: Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (selections)

Discussion Leader: Autumn

**Week 11**


Discussion Leader: Casey

DUE: FINAL PAPER THESIS AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
Changes in Procedural and Substantive Democratic Legitimacy

Week 12
11/17: Civil Rights
King Jr., “Letter From Birmingham Jail”
Coates, Between the World and Me
Discussion Leader: Riley

Week 13
11/24: Direct Democracy*
Discussion Leader: Omer

Week 14
12/1: Inequality and Representation*
Bartels, “Economic Inequality and Political Representation” [available on Learn@UW]
Discussion Leader: Riley

Week 15:
Discussion Leader: Katelyn
DUE: FINAL PAPER

Week 16:
12/15: Wrap-up