

**ATS3905
Democratic Theory**

Unit Guide

Semester 1, 2015

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ATS3905 Democratic Theory - Semester 1, 2015

The idea of democracy is ubiquitous in the contemporary world - diverse regime types and institutional systems claim democratic credentials and democracy is widely accepted as the most legitimate system of government. But the ideal of 'rule by the people' is not easy to achieve, and faces particular difficulties in large-scale modern societies characterised by institutional complexity, pluralism/multiculturalism, and globalization. This unit considers what the ideal of democracy can mean in contemporary political life, and how (or whether) it can be institutionally achieved.

Mode of Delivery

Clayton (Day)

Workload Requirements

Minimum total expected workload to achieve the learning outcomes for this unit is 144 hours per semester typically comprising a mixture of scheduled learning activities and independent study. A unit requires on average three/four hours of scheduled activities per week. Scheduled activities may include a combination of teacher directed learning, peer directed learning and online engagement.

See also Unit timetable information

Additional workload requirements

6 points, SCA Band 1, 0.125 EFTSL

Unit Relationships

Prerequisites

A cornerstone unit in Human rights.

Prohibitions

ATS2905

Chief Examiner(s)

[Dr John Thrasher](#)

Unit Coordinator(s)

Clayton

Dr John Thrasher

Campus: Clayton

Phone: +61 3 990 20016

Email: John.Thrasher@monash.edu

ATS3905 Democratic Theory - Semester 1, 2015

Contact hours: Clayton: Wednesday 1:15-2:15pm (Building 11, Room 658A) or by appointment

Lecturer(s)

Campus Coordinator(s)

Your Feedback to Us

Monash is committed to excellence in education and regularly seeks feedback from students, employers and staff. One of the key formal ways students have to provide feedback is through the Student Evaluation of Teaching and Units (SETU) survey. The University's student evaluation policy requires that every unit is evaluated each year. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the surveys. The feedback is anonymous and provides the Faculty with evidence of aspects that students are satisfied and areas for improvement.

For more information on Monash's educational strategy, see:

www.monash.edu.au/about/monash-directions/directions.html and on student evaluations, see: www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/quality/student-evaluation-policy.html

Previous Student Evaluations of this Unit

If you wish to view how previous students rated this unit, please go to <https://emuapps.monash.edu.au/unitevaluations/index.jsp>

Academic Overview

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the unit, students will have:

1. Mastered basic and advanced concepts in democratic theory;
2. Acquired familiarity with the concepts and methodology of social choice theory;
3. Developed an understanding of the major theoretical difficulties involved in the ideal of democratic rule;
4. Be able to identify relevant literature for the purposes of scholarly work on the nature and justification of democracy;
5. Improved written and oral communication skills.
6. Undertaken independent research and reading in completing the assignments.

Unit Schedule

Week	Activities	Assessment
0		No formal assessment or activities are undertaken in week 0
1	The justification of democracy	
2	Majority rule.	Tutorial Paper 1
3	Majority rule and the problem of social choice.	Tutorial Paper 2
4	Deliberative democracy and the problem of pluralism/disagreement.	Tutorial Paper 3
5	Review and Catch-up. No Lecture	No Tutorial
6	Deliberative democracy and the problem of scale	Tutorial Paper 4
7	Democracy and human rights	Tutorial Paper 5
8	Democracy and representation	Tutorial Paper 6
9	Democratic boundaries and the problem of the demos	Essay Plan Due
10	Democratic theory and the justification of closed borders.	Tutorial Paper 7
11	Global democracy.	Tutorial Paper 8
12	Review	Essay Due
	SWOT VAC	No formal assessment is undertaken during SWOT VAC
	Examination period	LINK to Assessment Policy: http://policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/assessment-in-coursework-policy.html

Teaching Approach

Lecture and tutorials or problem classes

This unit uses a combined teaching approach involving one 1-hour lecture and one 1-hour tutorial per week. This teaching and learning approach is preferred as it encourages facilitated learning, deliberative engagement and peer learning.

Assessment Summary

Within semester assessment: 100%

Assessment Task	Value	Due Date
Weekly Tutorial Papers	40%	Weeks 2-4, 6-8, 10-11
Essay Plan	10%	Week 9
Research Essay	50%	Week 12

Unit Schedule

Hurdle Requirements

Essay Plan

Students must have their essay plans approved before their final essay will be marked

Assessment, Exams & Results Policies and Procedures

The assessment detailed here expands on the broad outline provided in the Handbook and students will be assessed according to the information in the Unit Guide for this semester and year. Students who have concerns or questions about the assessment regime should contact the Unit Coordinator. For all policies and procedures go to <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/>

Assessment Requirements

Assessment Tasks

• Assessment task 1

Title:

Weekly Tutorial Papers

Due date:

Weeks 2-4, 6-8, 10-11

Details of task:

Most weeks a short tutorial paper will be due in the tutorial. Questions for each tutorial paper will be listed on the moodle site at least one week in advance. Papers will be no more than 300 words. The students must attend the tutorial for the paper to be marked, unless there is a documented illness or other university approved absence. Further details will be listed in the tutorial paper instructions on the moodle site.

Release dates:

The tutorial paper questions will be released at least one week before the due date.

Word limit:

300

Weighting/Value (%):

40%

Presentation requirements:

Papers should be submitted via moodle

Estimated return date:

Within 5 days

Criteria for marking:

	Inadequate	Adequate	Good	Very good
Evidence of understanding (including conceptual mastery, insight, clarity of exposition)	0-3	4	5	6-7
Quality of argument (depth of research, originality)	0-3	4	5	6
Quality of writing (including punctuation, spelling, paragraph structure, correct use of referencing conventions)	0-3	4	5	6-7

Learning objectives assessed:

To test basic comprehension of the core readings and concepts.

• Assessment task 2

Title:

Essay Plan

Due date:

Week 9

Details of task:

The essay plan involves writing a short abstract, outline, and bibliography for the final essay according to a template provided.

Release dates:

Assessment Requirements

The research essay topics and essay plan instructions will be available by week 6

Weighting/Value (%):

10%

Presentation requirements:

You must submit your essay plans online via Moodle. The template for the essay plan will be available on moodle.

Referencing is a requirement for this assessment task. For information and advice regarding referencing and citation rules and the writing of philosophy assignments in general go

to: <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/philosophy/resources-for-undergraduate-students/>

Estimated return date:

Hurdle requirements:

Students must discuss and have their essay plan approved by the chief examiner in order for their final essay to be marked.

Criteria for marking:

Students will receive marks on the basis of whether or not they have: (1) demonstrated knowledge and understanding of materials relevant to the chosen essay topic; (2) formulated a clear and concise thesis which they will defend in their essay; and (3) considered the structure of their thesis – how they expect their essay to unfold section-by-section (4) consistency of citation and relevance of citations to the proposed essay.

Learning objectives assessed:

To develop good research practices as well as giving the students the opportunity to benefit from constructive feedback before they commence writing their major essays.

• Assessment task 3

Title:

Research Essay

Due date:

Week 12

Details of task:

A list of essay topics will be posted on the Moodle site for this unit, from which you must choose one. The essay questions will give you the opportunity to undertake an extended investigation into the theory of democracy, relating to one or more of the topics covered.

Release dates:

The essay questions and the essay plan template will be available by week 7

Word limit:

2000 words

Weighting/Value (%):

50%

Presentation requirements:

You must submit your research essays online via Moodle. Specific formatting instructions will be available on moodle.

Referencing is a requirement for this assessment task. For information and advice regarding referencing and citation rules and the writing of philosophy assignments in general go

to: <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/philosophy/resources-for-undergraduate-students/>

Estimated return date:

Hurdle requirements:

Assessment Requirements

Students must have submitted the essay plan in order to submit the research essay.

Criteria for marking:

	Inadequate	Adequate	Good	Very good
Evidence of understanding (including conceptual mastery, insight, clarity of exposition)	0-3	4	5	6-7
Quality of argument (depth of research, originality)	0-3	4	5	6
Quality of writing (including punctuation, spelling, paragraph structure, correct use of referencing conventions)	0-3	4	5	6-7

Learning objectives assessed:

To develop essay writing/researching skills and the capacity for critical thought and argumentation.

Examinations

Learning resources

Monash Library Unit Reading List

<http://readinglists.lib.monash.edu/index.html>

Feedback to you

Types of feedback you can expect to receive in this unit are:

- Informal feedback on progress in labs/tutes
- Graded assignments with comments

Extensions and penalties

The Faculty of Arts *Assessment extension and late assessment submission procedures* can be found at <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/extension-and-late-assessment-submission-procedures/>.

Tutorial papers cannot be accepted late. For essay plans and research essays handed in after the due dates and without an agreed extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a subsequent penalty of 2% per day will be applied for the next thirteen calendar days after the due date (including Saturdays and Sundays).

No assignment can be accepted after more than fourteen calendar days except in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with your lecturer or tutor. If students face a significant illness or serious issue, it may be that Special Consideration is warranted.

Returning assignments

Assignments returned electronically

Assignments will be returned via Moodle unless otherwise specified by your tutor.

Resubmission of assignments

Students who submit their final essays on time will have the option of resubmitting their research essay after receiving comments. Details will be posted on moodle.

The Arts Faculty policy for review and re-marking requests can be found here: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/policies/review-remarking-policy.php>

Referencing requirements

<http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/philosophy/resources-for-undergraduate-students/>

Assignment submission

It is a University requirement

(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/student-academic-integrity-managing-pla>) for students to submit an assignment coversheet for each assessment item.

- **Assignments using Turnitin:** logon to Moodle, navigate to the Moodle submission statement and tick the checkbox to signal that you have read and agreed with the statement. If you also need to submit a hardcopy for marking and feedback purposes, you will need to print a coversheet from your My Monash portal and attach it to your assignment.
- **For all other online assignment submissions:** The coversheet is accessible via the Monash portal page located at <http://my.monash.edu.au> under the heading 'Learning and teaching tools'. For online submission, copy and paste the coversheet as the first page the assignment and complete the details; you should type your name at the signature prompt. Alternatively, if your Unit Coordinator has enabled the Moodle submission statement, you can tick the checkbox to signal that you have read and agreed with the statement.
- **For hardcopy submission:** The coversheet is accessible via the Monash portal page located at <http://my.monash.edu.au> under the heading 'Learning and teaching tools'. Print, complete all the details, sign and staple the coversheet to the front of the assignment.
- **For Honours thesis submission:** Download and complete the thesis assessment coversheet from the [Arts Policy Bank - Honours procedures page](#). Lodge this with your thesis as per the instructions below. Note: do not bind it into your thesis.
- **For Graduate Coursework research thesis and research project submission:** Downloaded and complete the thesis assessment coversheet from the the [Arts Policy Bank - Research in graduate coursework degrees procedures page](#). Lodge this with your thesis as per the instructions below. Note: do not bind it into your thesis.

This unit uses Turnitin

NB: In order to protect your privacy, you **must not** include personal details (name, student ID, email address, etc.) in the body text, header, or footer, of any assignment analysed by Turnitin.

Regarding the need to complete a coversheet - please follow the directions above.

Online Submission

Log into Moodle via the my.monash portal and select the unit for which you wish to submit work. Submit your assignment using the Moodle assignment link by the due date and time. Do not submit files attached to email.

Instructions for submitting an assignment electronically using Moodle are found at <http://www.vle.monash.edu/supporttraining/learnbytech/moodle/students/submitted-an-assignment.html>

Unless you have made prior arrangements with your Unit's Chief Examiner, only the following file formats will be accepted:

- doc, .rtf, .txt, .pdf, .html;
- It is essential you adhere to the following format for the naming of the file you wish to submit:
 - ◆ it must contain your Authcate name; and
 - ◆ there must be no space in the filename.
- You will receive a confirmation message within VLE site once you have successfully submitted your assignment within the electronic dropbox.
- Comments and grading of your assessment will be communicated to you via Moodle.

NB: Once you submit an assignment you are taken back to the assignment page where the page shows, in the 'Submission' box, what you have submitted. It is a good idea to save a screenshot for your records.

Electronic submission of assignments is required for this unit, but hard copy submission will be permitted if necessary via prior arrangement.

Hard copies of assignments where permitted must include a cover sheet. The coversheet is accessible via the Monash portal page located at: <<http://my.monash.edu.au>> under the heading 'Learning and teaching tools'.

The student must have signed the 'plagiarism and collusion' paragraph on the cover sheet. This includes a statement verifying that the student has read and understood the appropriate Essay Writing Guidelines (especially in relation to referencing and footnotes). Unsigned essays will not be accepted.

Students must also have checked off the list of requirements for the submission of essays which is on the reverse side of the essay cover sheet.

Written work should be submitted before 5pm on the stated due date.

Please keep a copy of all assignments completed for your own records.

Prescribed text(s) and readings

All essential readings will be available in a reader, available for purchase from the university bookroom.

Recommended text(s) and readings

An extended list of recommended texts and readings will be supplied on the unit Moodle website, as a resource for use in preparing research essays.

Other Information

Policies

Monash has educational policies, procedures and guidelines, which are designed to ensure that staff and students are aware of the University's academic standards, and to provide advice on how they might uphold them. You can find Monash's Education Policies at:

www.policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/index.html

Key educational policies include:

- Plagiarism;
- Assessment in Coursework Programs;
- Special Consideration;
- Grading Scale;
- Discipline: Student Policy;
- Academic Calendar and Semesters;
- Orientation and Transition; and
- Academic and Administrative Complaints and Grievances Policy.

Graduate Attributes Policy

<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/management/monash-graduate-attributes-policy.html>

Student Charter

www.opq.monash.edu.au/ep/student-charter/monash-university-student-charter.html

Student services

The University provides many different kinds of support services for you. Contact your tutor if you need advice and see the range of services available at <http://www.monash.edu.au/students>

Monash University Library

The Monash University Library provides a range of services, resources and programs that enable you to save time and be more effective in your learning and research. Go to www.lib.monash.edu.au or the library tab in [my.monash](http://my.monash.edu.au) portal for more information.

Moodle

All unit and lecture materials, plus other information of importance to students, are available through the Moodle site. You can access Moodle via the My.Monash Portal: <http://my.monash.edu.au>

For assistance, you can contact the eSolutions Desk by:

Service Desk Online: <http://servicedeskonline.monash.edu.au>

Phone: (+61 3) 990 32777

Further information can be obtained from the following site <http://vle.monash.edu.au/>

Disability Liaison Unit

Students who have a disability or medical condition are welcome to contact the Disability Liaison Unit to discuss academic support services. Disability Liaison Officers (DLOs) visit all Victorian campuses on a regular basis.

Website: <http://www.monash.edu/equity-diversity/disability/index.html> Telephone: 03 9905 5704 to book an appointment with a DLO; Email: dlu@monash.edu Drop In: Equity and Diversity Centre, Level 1, Building 55, Clayton Campus.

Arts Academic and Professional Writing Unit:

The Arts Academic and Professional Writing Unit coordinates and teaches a number of elective units designed to develop students' academic and professional capacities in English, writing and independent learning. These units include first year level units, as well as second and third year units (all 6 points) and are open to any student who can take an Arts elective. We also offer information about other support for your development of Academic Writing, English and study.

See our website for full details and contacts: <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/aallu/>

Peer Ambassador Leaders (PAL Program)

The PAL program is a three tier program which offers you the chance to engage with the university community, to support fellow students, and develop your teamwork and leadership skills.

Peers are mentored by second and third year students and encouraged to attend social events. Ambassadors share their knowledge by mentoring Peers and representing the Faculty at key events such as Open Day and Orientation. Leaders help run the program, as well as continuing to mentor and represent the Faculty at events.

The program is designed for undergraduate students studying for a degree or double degree through the Faculty of Arts at Caulfield and Clayton.

- Peer – Transitioning and 1st year students
- Ambassador - 2nd, 3rd and 4th years
- Leaders – 3rd and 4th years

See our website for full details and contacts: <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/transition/>

First in the Family

This program offers social and academic networking opportunities for students who are in the first generation of their family to attend university. Students form their own committee which meets each month during semester. Participants are matched with a student mentor and social events are organized.

See our website for full details and contacts:
<http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/transition/first-in-the-family-introduction/>

Other Information