Poli Sci 931-1 Theory and Practice of Representation  
Thurs. 3:30-5:30 422 North Hall  

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This class is a graduate seminar in theories and practices of representation. As the name suggests, the approach will be both theoretical and comparative. While we will not engage in a close study of different practices of electoral design or voting mechanisms, we will look at those structural features of democratic systems along with many others in order to gain a deeper understanding of the different meanings that "representation" holds across political systems.  

The syllabus that follows is subject to change after the first four weeks if the members of the seminar develop an interest in pursuing a different direction of inquiry. This is intended to operate in the traditional manner of a graduate seminar, meaning that each week one or more participants will present the materials and lead a portion of the discussion. At least twice in the semester, each student's presentation will be accompanied by a 3-5 page critical review written in the manner of a book review (i.e. a brief summary of the overall argument followed by a critical assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the author's argument). The final project is a research paper suitable for presentation at a conference (my expectation, in fact, is that each of you will present your paper at a conference after we have worked on it together a bit following the seminar—this is not a requirement, but it is good practice).  

A note on the readings: I have asked you all to buy five books that introduce a range of theoretical treatments of representation. Additional readings will comprise articles, which will be the main source for readings on representative practices (along with the occasional copied book chapter). All materials other than the required books will be made available by moodle and/or electronic distribution.  

Required books:  

Pitkin, *The Concept of Representation* (Univ. Cal. 1972)  
978-0-520-02156-3  

978-0-521-45891-7  

Rehfeld, *The Concept of Constituency* (Cambridge 2005)  
978-0-521-05732-5
Jan. 23 Introduction

I. Theories of Representation

Jan. 30 classical theories

Excerpts from Mill, Locke, Bagehot

NO CLASS FEB 6

Feb. 13 the modern take on the concept

Reading: Hannah Pitkin, The Concept of Representation

Dahl, Robert, A Preface to Democratic Theory chapt. 3-4

Feb. 20 reviewing the history (two presenters)

Bernard Manin, The Principles of Representative Government

Nadia Urbanati, Representative Democracy: Principles and Genealogy

Fe. 27 the conversation continued

Andrew Rehfeld, The Concept of Constituency

II. Practices of Political Representation

Mar. 6 accountability

in Przeworski, Stokes, and Manin eds., Democracy, Accountability, and Representation
Manin et. al., “Elections and Representation”
Fearon, “Electoral Accountability and the Control of Politicians”
Ferejhn, “Accountability and Authority: Toward a Theory of Political Accountability”
Laver and Shepsle, “Government Accountability in Parliamentary Democracy”
Cheibun and Przeworski, “Democracy, Elections, and Accountability for Economic Outcomes”


Mar. 13 Other problems of accountability (1 presenter)


Mar. 27  Elections: voting systems

Issacharoff, Samuel et. al., The Law of Democracy (Foundation Press 1998): 713-84

a) compulsory voting


b) preferential and cumulative voting


c) who votes?


Apr. 3  Elections: structural effects


Galigan, Brian, A Federal Republic (Cambridge 1995) chapt. 2


**Apr. 10 Representation and Governmental Design**


**Apr. 17 Clientelism and Corporatism**

Stokes, Susan et. al., *Brokers, Voters, and Clientelism* (Cambridge 2013) 75-151 (chaps. 3-5)


Mailand, Mikkel, “Corporatism in Denmark and Norway” (2008, Employment Relations Research Centre working paper, published elsewhere in German)


**Apr. 24 Descriptive Representation: women**


### III. Revisiting the theory

#### May 1 representation and Recognition


Fraser, Nancy, “Recognition or Redistribution” in Fraser and Axel Honneth, *Redistribution or Recognition?* (Verso 2003)


#### May 8 representation reconsidered


Vieira, Monica Brito and David Runciman, *Representation* (Polity 2008), chapt. 6 and Epilogue

**Date tba** paper topics presentations – NOTE this will be a make-up class because I will be away on Feb. 6. Date, time, and location tba