

Keywords: discussion questions, first class

Gov 97: Section 1 Lesson Plan:
01-28-14

To Bring

- Syllabus
- Lesson plan
- “how to read” document
- “how to participate” document
- Blank sheets of paper for sign ups

A. Introductions

- a. Rakeen
- b. Student introductions
 - i. Where you’re from, year, extracurriculars.
 - ii. Why are you a gov concentrator? What gets you excited about political science?
 - iii. What do you think the most democratic country in the world is?
 - iv. If there was a zombie apocalypse and we were trapped in this room, what skills or talents would you bring to the table?

B. Logistical issues

- a. Go through syllabus
 - i. Remember to say that my office hours will be a bit different next week, will email to confirm which times.
 - ii. We’re going to try out the newspaper article thing, but if it doesn’t work too well, we’ll scrap it
- b. Mention the how to participate and how to read worksheets. Take a look on your own time, as they really are very helpful.
- c. Organizing one-on-one meetings – will email to set these up next week.
- d. 10 minute break at 5pm

C. Class Questions

- At the beginning of class, I asked you what the most democratic country in the world was. I know that might have been a top of the head response, but let’s think for a bit of what criteria you used to pick your country. What criteria did you use? How important are any one of these criteria?
- What is the relationship between the criteria you were using, and Dworkin’s concepts of dependent and detached democracy? What approach do you favor as the better way to evaluate a democracy? Why? Think about the American democratic system – under which approach does it seem like a better democracy, or is it the same?
- What is horizontal and vertical power? What is harder to achieve, horizontal or vertical equality of power? Which is more important? How does Dworkin use the ideas of horizontal or vertical equality to break down the case for detached democracy?
- What is the difference between impact and influence? Why does it matter? How does this affect Dworkin’s views of detached v. dependent conceptions of democracy? What could we do to move towards a society with more equality of influence? Do you think that would be good for democracy or not? Why or why not?

- What is deliberative democracy?
 - o How does Walzer's definition of deliberative democracy connect with Dworkin's principles and detached and dependent democracy? *Equal distribution of power (detached democracy) with best and egalitarian outcomes (dependent democracy)*
 - o How would Dworkin criticize Waltzer?
- Do you agree with Walzer that democracy does not need to be purely deliberative? Is there virtue in having non-deliberative aspects in a democracy? What are the upsides? What are the downsides? What does a pure deliberative democracy look like in practice? Is it feasible?
- Waltzer names lobbying, campaigning, etc as aspects of democracy that are not deliberative but are legitimately needed in democracies. Do you agree? What about with other parts of his list? Do we need deliberation in politics? Do we have deliberation in politics? Is deliberation incompatible with other desirable aspects of a democracy? *(Could deliberate and decide on a policy, and ignore what all your citizens want)*
- Why do you think universities have so often been the place where protests and movements started? Why are universities the places where institutional challenge often begins? What is unique about the university environment that allows for this kind of democratic participation?
- What is at the heart of democracy? Voting? Deliberation? Equality? Representation? Expression of the common will? Can all of these things coexist? Should they?

Back Pocket Questions

What is political power? Can political power ever really work as a detached conception of democracy would idealize it to be? Why or why not? What are some examples of groups or people that have disproportionate power?

Is inequality compatible with democracy? What would Dworkin say? Learned Hand?

What does the SDS want? What does the SDS think is wrong with democracy in American in the time that they're writing?

Is the SDS's view of democracy closer to a dependent or detached conception?

Do SDS and Learned Hand see apathy in the same way?

What is the role of the private sector in a democracy? What would SDS's response to that be?

Is the US democratic? What makes it democratic? What makes it not democratic?

What would the SDS's ideal democracy look like?