

Lesson plan, Government 97 (Spring 2014)
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Introductions

Name, house, fun thing you did over break

Draw a picture about why you declared Gov, your interests, explain to section

What is the point of section?

- Tie together lectures, which are structured around a question, but that might not be addressed
- Think critically
- Understand how political scientists and social scientists think and approach problems.
- Retain information—by talking you retain information better.
- We want opinions b/c there's a lot in political science we don't know, we didn't predict the revolution in Egypt, so you can contribute to things

How section will be structured

I'm going to vary it, try to keep things interesting,
I will cold call
Do readings before lecture

Strategies for success in Gov 97 and lifelong happiness

- Reading strategies
 - Do the readings, you won't get nearly as much out of section if you don't, it affects your grade. At the same time, your goal is to do well for the whole semester, not just for next week. Read sustainably.
 - Skim first, and then read carefully
 - I was frustrated with not using textbooks as an undergrad in classes like this. But I now realize why we don't use textbooks. Textbooks make us think in boxes, reading articles helps us see how thoughts evolved, how authors responded to one another. So look at the dates on the articles you read. Look at who wrote before and after them.
 - Bureau of Study Counsel: The Reading Course: bsc.harvard.edu click on "The Reading Course"
- Speaking strategies
 - Speaking in a setting like this is hard, but the only way to get good at it is to practice. And in the big scheme of things speaking in a setting like this is not such a big deal. In 10 years when you're speaking to the board of directors of a company, or to the UN, or whatever, that's a big deal. So use this environment to practice. Embarrass yourself.
 - 4 ways to engage in a college level discussion 1) raw material 2) primary criticism or analysis, your own, 3) engage someone else's analysis 4) meta, there's more in common than what you think, what are the implications of this (credit to Emily Clough for this)
- Writing strategies
 - Use college as a chance to get better at writing. This will be important no matter what job you have. I guarantee it. Even if you think you're good—get better. People notice and

respect and reward good, concise, clear writing. Take advantage of every resource Harvard has to improve your writing.

Goal of section this week:

- "Why should we think democracy is valuable in the first place?" The rest of the course almost assumes "democracy matters." This week allows the students to engage this preliminary assumption.

What is the place of corporations and universities and big institutions in democracy?

Are they forces for the common good? (Tech companies and the NSA)

What is the most democratic country in the world?

What is democracy?

- ⤴ A form of govt that ususally involves voting
- ⤴ a package of institutions, usually including free and fair elections, broad suffrage, rule of law, elections for legislative and executive, freedom of speech, press and association
- ⤴ What criteria should we use to evaluate democracies?
- ⤴ Freedom House

Should Harvard be governed democratically?

What about Singapore?

Why is it that democracy works with other aspects of society, like marketplaces, while other forms of governance seem to be less conducive with these other aspects of society?

From lecture, instrumental and intrinsic benefits of democracy. What is the difference?

- ⤴ Benefit to the whole society v. benefit to the individual
- ⤴ outcome of democracy v. outcome of the process of democracy

(List on board)

Examples of instrumental benefits:

- ⤴ wisdom of the multitude
- ⤴ maintaining order and security
- ⤴ international peace, lack of war
- ⤴ promotes welfare
- ⤴ better social development outcomes
- ⤴ growth and markets
- ⤴ democracies are better at making decisions because they deliberate, "a rational assurance of being right"

Intrinsic benefits?

- ⤴ Self-protection
- ⤴ political equality (emphasis on political) inclusion, opportunity for influence, dignity)
- ⤴ personal development

Let's go back to these and make some connections to the authors. Start with political equality who talks about this?

How is voting tied to citizenship? Why is having the right to vote so important?

Dworkin

- Dependent democracy, this is a conception of democracy that cares about outcomes. Choice sensitive/choice insensitive
- Impact v. influence
- Horizontal v. vertical influence
- Have them debate normatively what we want vis a vis influence and impact and equality
- Normative view of democracy, if you have certain outcomes that is good for democracy

Different aspects of democracy are incompatible with each other. We want freedom of association, what about terrorist groups?

This relates to Occupy Wall Street. Can a country be democratic if there is high inequality? Why or why not?

What parts of society can be undemocratic without undermining democratic politics? Economy? Family? School system?

Walzer

- ✦ writing against deliberation. What is deliberation?
- ✦ why is deliberation a utopian ideal?
- ✦ What would Walzer think about Occupy Wall Street?

Final takeaway:

- Instrumental and intrinsic benefits of democracy
- Horizontal and vertical impact and influence, Dworkin

Nancy Rosenblum had a handout for this week. This is an excerpt from the handout that the students and I found very helpful:

III. Justifications for Democracy

a) Instrumental Justifications: better at producing desirable outcomes

- Order and security
- Peace
- Welfare
- Compatibility with private property
- Epistemic: better at decisions. (deliberation/aggregation)

b) Intrinsic Justifications

- Self-protection against oppression by despots, majorities, minorities
- Political Equality – three themes
 1. Inclusion: citizen status or equal public standing
 2. “Voice” and opportunity for influence
 3. Dignity: treatment as an equal
- Self-development

I gave out this handout:

Sophomore Tutorial: Democracy - Government 97 (Spring 2014)
Lecture: Mondays 2:00 – 3:30pm

Handout for 10am Tuesday tutorial, Cabot House (Lansing Room)

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Office: CGIS North, Room 229

Office hours: Cabot House Dining Hall, Mondays, 5pm-7pm, or email for an appointment if you can't make this time!

Outline for first section

Introductions

Logistics

- Section will start promptly at 10:07am.
- Attendance is mandatory, and unexcused absences will affect your participation grade. Of course I understand that in certain cases absences are unavoidable. If you have to miss section for a medical or family emergency, job interview, or similar conflict, please get in touch with me as soon as possible, and in advance of the section you will need to miss (preferably with 48 hours notice). Your participation grade will not be penalized for one excused absence. After that first absence, you can write a two-page response paper to the readings, but you will only receive partial credit for the section you missed.
- Attend lecture. We will be discussing points each speaker brings up, so your ability to contribute effectively to section will be diminished substantially if you skip the week's lecture. Chronic absences from lecture will negatively impact your class participation grade. Additionally, your papers will be graded in part on how well you engage with material covered in lectures.
- Contribute to discussion. A two-hour, small group section necessitates (and hopefully encourages) substantive, constructive contributions. Participation in section discussion certainly does not require one to have a comment on every subject. Rather, effective contribution may take many forms. For instance, asking for clarification when you don't understand something said in lecture or section, or in one of the readings; responding to a classmate's comment; and connecting the readings to current events are all great ways to participate in section. To participate in discussion, you must also listen to the contributions of others, and avoid non-substantive commentary or attacks on others' points of view.
- I am always open to feedback about how I can improve section. Please feel free to email or speak to me if you have any thoughts or suggestions!

What is the point of section?

Strategies for success in Gov 97

- Reading strategies
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- Speaking strategies
- Writing strategies
 - Sign up for Amanda’s office hours early—they fill up quickly.

Discussion of readings

Takeaways