

## PS 159 (SEM): Popular Sovereignty

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Office hours: Wed., 10-12 & by appt.

If the word sovereignty describes the highest political authority, including the power to make and remake a polity's fundamental laws, then the concept of popular sovereignty locates that power in the people. But who are the people, and who gets to decide? Who determines the criteria of inclusion and exclusion of this entity, and how? What does it mean for the people to be sovereign, given that they are usually represented and ruled by governments? What are the promise and perils of this political arrangement?

### Grading

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Participation             | 15% |
| Perusal Comments          | 15% |
| 5-7 page paper            | 20% |
| Research Exercise         | 10% |
| 15-20 page research paper | 40% |

### Attendance and Participation

I will expect you to prepare for seminar meetings, attend them, and participate in the discussion, as well as submit all written work by the relevant deadline, except in cases of medical or family emergency. In the latter, please contact me as soon as possible to let me know what the problem is. Please note that if you miss more than three sessions during the semester, you will fail the course.

### Guest Lectures

Professors Rick Valelly and Jan-Werner Müller, whose work we will read and discuss, will visit us to give talks or lead sessions. We will arrange these in such a way as to encourage maximum attendance. There may be other talks and events, as appropriate. If you become aware of relevant talks or events taking place elsewhere on campus, please let me know.

## Written Assignments

*Short Paper and Responses:* From February 6 onward, each week at least one (or two) seminar participant(s) will be required to write a 5-7 page paper (double-spaced, 12-pt. font, 1-inch margins) on the material to be discussed during that meeting and to open the meeting with a short (5-10 minutes) presentation based on that paper. The short papers will be due by 8 PM on the Sunday before the session in which they will be discussed. Once I have received them, I will post them on Perusall. At that point, every other seminar participant will have 24 hours to comment on the week's short paper(s). That means that these responses will be due by 8 PM on Monday evening, before each session. You must do this at least eight times, which means that you can choose to skip two weeks. A successful critique of the paper will, of course, have to be based on a solid foundation in the week's readings. The reactions may be as critical as the author sees fit, bearing in mind the need for collegiality and respect. A courteous response will thus be one that takes the argument of the short paper and its author's effort seriously. The week's readings, short paper, and reactions will form the starting point of our discussions. During the first two weeks, as well as on the Hobbes week, you will be commenting on readings. To sign up for Perusall, go to <https://perusall.com/> and create an account. You will then need to enroll in the course, using the code EVRIGENIS-6238.

*Final Paper:* You will also be required to write a final, 15-20 page paper, on one of the topics from a list to be distributed on April 3. The final paper will be due on May 11. Beyond that date, papers will be penalized by one grade per day for the first three days (e.g., A→B). I will not accept papers more than three days late.

The course is part of the Writing Fellows Program. The Writing Fellows are: Iqra Asghar (iqra.asghar@tufts.edu) and Lily Hartzell (lillian.hartzell@tufts.edu). They will stop by to introduce themselves and explain the program, and will let you know who your Fellow will be.

You will be required to meet with your Writing Fellow, in order to review and revise your first paper as follows:

Draft of short paper due on Sunday, at 5 PM, via email, in Word or PDF format  
Meet with your Writing Fellow, to discuss your paper  
Revise your paper accordingly  
Revised paper and short note on revisions due by 5 PM the following Sunday, via turnitin.com, in Word or PDF format. This is the version that will be circulated to the class for comments.

For the final paper:

Draft due on April 29, at 5 PM  
Meet with your Writing Fellow, to discuss your paper  
Revise your paper accordingly  
Revised paper and short note on revisions due on May 11, at 5 PM, through turnitin.com

You *must* arrange to meet your writing fellow and review your draft. If you do not, your paper will not be graded, and you will fail the assignment. Also, please note that both deadlines matter: your first draft should be a serious attempt at a paper, rather than an opportunity for an extension. I will look at both.

Please note that the final versions of papers are to be submitted using *turnitin.com*. Please visit <http://turnitin.com/static/index.html>, and set up an account if you do not have one already.

Once you have an account, you may access the assignment page for this course by using the following information: Class ID: 17184734, Password: wethepeople. Please familiarize yourself with this system early on and let me know if you encounter any difficulties. Last minute problems with it will not constitute an acceptable excuse for late submissions. If you have questions or concerns about turnitin.com, please see [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com).

Also, please review Tufts' academic integrity policy at:

<http://students.tufts.edu/student-affairs/student-life-policies/academic-integrity-policy>

Any suspected violations of Tufts' policies will be referred to Judicial Affairs.

I will expect you to submit all written work by the relevant deadline, except in cases of medical or family emergency. In the latter, please contact me as soon as possible to let me know what the problem is. In all other cases, beyond the due date, papers will be penalized by one grade (e.g., A→B) per day for the first three days. I will not accept papers more than three days late.

*Research Exercise:* We will be engaging in different exercises, such as commenting on a very short passage or looking up specific information, individually or in teams. These will be short exercises intended to hone our research and interpretive skills.

*Reading Assignments:* Please come to class having read the section that we will be discussing on each of the following dates.

## Schedule

- 23 January Introduction
- 30 January Populism  
Mueller, *What Is Populism?*
- 6 February The Jewish, Greek, and Roman peoples  
The Bible (sel.)  
Plato, *Republic*, Book III (sel.)  
Aristotle, *Politics; Athenian Constitution* (sel.)  
Cary & Scullard, *A History of Rome*, Ch. 7  
Beard, *SPQR* (sel.)  
Morgan, *Inventing the People*, pp. 13-15
- 13 February The Body Politic and the Concept of Sovereignty  
Plato, *Republic*, Book II (sel.)  
John of Salisbury, *Policraticus* (sel.)  
Kantorowitz, *The King's Two Bodies* (sel.)  
Bodin, *The Six Bookes of a Commonweale*, I.8; I.10; II.1; II.7  
Schmitt, *Political Theology*, Ch. 1
- 15 February A Union, Not a Multitude, and the Sovereign Representative  
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Introduction, Chs. 13-31  
Filmer, *Observations concerning the Originall of Government* (sel.)  
Morgan, *Inventing the People*, Chs. 3-4
- 27 February Against Representation: The Sovereign People  
Rousseau, *The Social Contract*

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|----------|---|
| 6 March  | <p>The Nation</p> <p>Herder, <i>Another Philosophy of History</i><br/> Herder, “Do We Still Have the Fatherland of the Ancients?”<br/> Herder, “Do We Still Have a Fatherland?”<br/> Herder, “On the Characters of Nations and Ages”<br/> Renan, What Is a Nation?</p>                                    |
| 13 March | <p>Weimar</p> <p>Schmitt, <i>The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy</i></p>  |
| 27 March | <p>Nazism</p> <p>Evans, <i>The Coming of the Third Reich</i> (sel.)</p>   |
| 3 April  | <p>We the People</p> <p>Declaration of Independence<br/> Federalist 37, 38, 39, 50, 51<br/> Morgan, <i>Inventing the People</i>, Ch. 11</p>   |
| 10 April | <p>Democracy in America</p> <p>Lincoln, Lyceum Address<br/> Tocqueville, <i>Democracy in America</i>, Introduction, I.i.2, I.i.3, I.i.4, I.i.5,<br/> I.ii.1, I.ii.3, I.ii.4, I.ii.5, I.ii.6, II.i.2, II.i.5, II.ii.2, II.ii.3, II.ii.4,<br/> II.ii.5, II.iv.<br/> Shklar, <i>American Citizenship</i></p> |
| 17 April | <p>Public Opinion</p> <p>Valelly, <i>American Politics: A Very Short Introduction</i><br/> Key, <i>Public Opinion and American Democracy</i> (sel.)<br/> Igo, <i>The Averaged American</i> (sel.)</p>   |

24 April

Popular Sovereignty: Trump, SYRIZA, AfD, Interference

Gelman & Azari, "19 Things We Learned from the 2016 Election"

Shapiro, Comment on Gelman & Azari

Landau, "Russia's Hybrid Warriors Got the White House. Now  
They're Coming for America's Town Halls"

NPR On Point: Fake News Bots Are Here

Wolley Research Memos on Bots