

PH9GG-30 Democracy: Authority and Resistance

24/25

Department

Philosophy

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Sameer Bajaj

Credit value

30

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

PH9GG-30 Democracy and Authority

Module aims

The aim of this module is to introduce students to fundamental questions and theories concerning the general nature of political authority and the authority of democratic institutions in particular.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

1. The Nature of Political Authority
 - Legitimacy v. Justification v. Authority
 - Leading Views of the Nature of Political Authority
2. The Authority of Democracy: Advocates and Critics
 - Intrinsic Theories

-Instrumentalist Theories

3. The Obligations of Democratic Citizenship

-Voting and Participation

-Disobedience and Protest

-Toleration and Compromise

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- (i) demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the most important questions and theories concerning the nature of political authority
- (ii) demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the central theories defending and opposing the authority of democratic institutions
- (iii) demonstrate the ability to systematically relate key questions and concepts in the philosophy of political authority to broader philosophical questions and concepts concerning morality, epistemology, and metaphysics
- (iv) produce original and advanced written work on a topic of current interest in the philosophical literature on democracy and authority.

Indicative reading list

Joseph Raz, selections from *The Morality of Freedom*

Stephen Darwall, "Authority and Reasons: Exclusionary and Second-Personal"

Plato, selections from *The Republic*

John Locke, selections from *Second Treatise of Government*

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, selections from *The Social Contract*

David Estlund, selections from *Democratic Authority*

Thomas Christiano, selections from *The Constitution of Equality*

Hélène Landemore, selections from *Democratic Reason*

Fabienne Peter, selections from *Democratic Legitimacy*

Gerald Gaus, selections from *The Order of Public Reason*

Daniel Viehoff, "Democratic Equality and Political Authority"

Robert Paul Wolff, selections from *In Defense of Anarchism*

Alex Zakaras, "Complicity and Coercion: Towards an Ethics of Political Participation"

Hanna Pitkin, selections from *The Concept of Representation*

Martin Luther King Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

Kimberley Brownlee, selections from Conscience and Conviction: The Case for Civil Disobedience

Juliet Hooker, "Black Lives Matter and the Paradox of U.S. Black Politics: From Democratic Sacrifice to Democratic Repair"

Subject specific skills

TBC

Transferable skills

TBC

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 2 hours (6%)
Seminars	8 sessions of 1 hour (3%)
Private study	274 hours (91%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time
5000 word essay	100%	

Feedback on assessment

Feedback on essays will be provided on the coversheet for the essay, addressing standard areas of evaluation and individual content.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TPHA-V7P2 Postgraduate Taught Continental Philosophy
- Year 1 of TPHA-V7PM Postgraduate Taught Philosophy
- Year 1 of TPHA-V7PN Postgraduate Taught Philosophy and the Arts