

Representation and Accountability
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NYU Politics
Fall 2006

Syllabus

The aim of this seminar is to explore the foundations of the relationship between political representation and accountability. We will do so by engaging the more normative and philosophical accounts of this relationship, from the classic work in the political philosophy canon to recent formulations, as well as the theoretical and empirical work in contemporary social science that aims to give a positive account of this relationship.

Requirements:

There are no pre-requisites, but students are expected to be enrolled concurrently or to have taken the first-semester sequence of Ph.D. seminars in the Politics Department or the equivalent.

Students taking the seminar for credit will be expected to write a seminar paper (15-20p) and several short (5p) responses to the weekly readings.

Sequence of Readings (grouped by topics)

I.

Aristotle, *Politics* Book III, Chs. 1-13

Burke, Edmund. "Speech to the Electors of Bristol" and "Speech on the Reform of the Representation of the Commons in Parliament"

Constant, Benjamin. *Principles of Politics Applicable to All Governments*, Book 3.

II.

Madison, James. *Federalist Papers* Nos. 10, 37, 48-51.

Constant, Benjamin. "On the Liberties of the Ancients and of the Moderns."

III.

Mill, John Stuart. *Considerations on Representative Government*. Chapters 4-7, 9, 12

IV.

Runciman, David. 2006. "The Paradox of Political Representation." *Journal of Political Philosophy*.

Pitkin, Hanna Fenichel. 1967. *The Concept of Representation*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapters 3, 6-8.

Manin, Bernard. 1997. *The Principles of Representative Government*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-4.

V.

Rehfeld, Andrew. 2005. *The Concept of Constituency: Political Representation, Democratic Legitimacy and Institutional Design*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1, 2, 7-9.

Rehfeld, Andrew. 2006. "Towards a General Theory of Political Representation." *Journal of Politics*, 68, no. 1, February: 1-21.

VI.

Manin, Bernard, Adam Przeworski, and Susan Stokes. 1999. "Elections and Representation," in Adam Przeworski, et al. eds., *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 29-54.

Levitt, Steven D. 1996. "How Do Senators Vote? Disentangling the Role of Voter Preferences, Party Affiliation, and Senator Ideology." *American Economic Review* 86: 425-441.

Lee, David S., Enrico Moretti, and Matthew J. Butler. 2004. "Do Voters Affect or Elect Policies: Evidence from the U.S. House." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 119(3): 807-860.

VII.

Fearon, James. 1999. "Electoral Accountability and the Control of Politicians: Selecting Good Types vs. Sanctioning Poor Performance," in Adam Przeworski, et al. eds., *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 55-97.

Maskin, Eric and Jean Tirole. 2004. "The Politician and the Judge." *American Economic Review*.

Stimson, James. 1995. "Dynamic Representation." *American Political Science Review*.

VIII.

Myerson, Roger. 1999. "Theoretical Comparison of Electoral Systems." *European Economic Review* 43, 671-697.

Gordon, Sanford and Gregory Huber. 2006. "The Effect of Electoral Competitiveness on Incumbent Behavior." NYU Working Paper.

Pande, Rohini. 2003. "Can Mandated Political Representation Increase Policy Influence for Disadvantaged Minorities? Theory and Evidence from India." *American Economic Review* 93(4): 1132-1151.

IX.

Myerson, Roger. 2006. "Leadership, Trust, and Constitutions." University of Chicago Mimeo.

X.

Persson, Torsten, Gerard Roland, and Guido Tabellini. 1997. "Separation of Powers and Political Accountability." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 112, 1163-1202.

Ferejohn, John. 1999. "Accountability and Authority: Toward a Theory of Political Accountability," in Adam Przeworski, et al. eds., *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 131-153.

Bueno de Mesquita, Ethan and Dimitri Landa. 2006. "Transparency and the Separation of Powers." NYU Working Paper.

Stasavage, David. 2006. "Public vs. Private Deliberation in a Representative Democracy." *Journal of Politics*.

XI.

Gordon, Sanford, Gregory Huber, and Dimitri Landa. 2005. "Challenger Entry and Voter Learning." *American Political Science Review*, forthcoming.

Manin, Bernard. 1997. *The Principles of Representative Government*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chs. 5-6.

Landa, Dimitri. 2006. "Legislative Representation and Deliberative Accountability." NYU Working Paper.