

Saint Leo University
POL 110HA
Revolution Now! Democracy in Troubled Times

Course Description:

This course investigates the rise and spread of democracy. Democracy as a form of government and social movement will be traced from its ancient origins in Greece and Rome to the American and French Revolutions of the eighteenth century, through its evolution and diffusion during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, to its position of global dominance at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Democratic values, norms, and behaviors will be examined through the use of historical video footage and core texts. Attention will be paid to governmental systems in the United States, Western Europe, the BRIC countries, and our neighbors Canada and Mexico, as well as to the emerging democracies in the Middle East and Asia. Acquiring basic academic skills will be emphasized, as students are awakened to the significance of world historical events and the excitement of following current affairs.

Prerequisite:

N/A

Textbooks:

Tocqueville, Alexis, Michael Kammen, and Elizabeth Rawlings. *Democracy in America*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2009. Print. ISBN-13: 978-0-312-46330-4

Learning Outcomes:

1. To identify and reflect upon democratic core values and democratically empowering political institutions, such as frequent elections, competing parties, representative bodies, open courts, etc. through successful completion of essay quizzes.
2. To apply principles from the social sciences to individual experience *in order to acknowledge and appreciate political and cultural differences among leading Western nations and between Western and non-Western nations through successful completion of essay quizzes and final term paper. HA2*
3. To analyze major historical, political, social, economic and/or life events in *context in order to understand how political institutions, social norms, and ideologies evolve over time and how we carry the past with us through successful completion of final exam and term paper. HA1*
4. To encourage civic engagement and build confidence in political deliberation and decision-making through participation on discussion board.
5. To communicate effectively for a determined purpose *while inquiring into the core value of "community" through the interpretation of texts and self-reflection exercises, and, after deriving conclusion from the examinations of facts and values, to consider what it means to be a participating citizen in a democratic society through the completion of a term paper. CC2*

Core Value:

Community: Saint Leo University develops hospitable Christian learning communities everywhere we serve. We foster a spirit of belonging, unity, and interdependence based on mutual trust and respect to create socially responsible environments that challenge all of us to listen, to learn, to change, and to serve.

Evaluation:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Percent of Grade</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
Discussion Board	25%	800 (8 @ 100 points each)
Quizzes	25%	700 (7 @ 100 points each)
Term Paper – Rough Draft	10%	100 (1 @ 100 points each)
Term Paper – Final Version	20%	100 (1 @ 100 points each)
Final Exam	<u>20%</u>	<u>100 (1 @ 100 points each)</u>
Totals:	100%	1800 points

Discussions:

Each module contains one discussion question. These are graded questions to reflect upon, respond to, and reply to peers upon. Students are to post on the Discussion Board their own initial response to the question by **Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT** of the module in which the question is asked. Initial responses and replies should be between 250 and 350 words. Appropriate referencing is needed when citing materials of others.

An initial response to the discussion question should demonstrate:

- Understanding of the question itself
- Knowledge of the subject matter related
- Analysis and synthesis of the issues involved

Replies to at least two classmates are due by **Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT** of the module in which the question is asked.

The required replies should demonstrate:

- Respect for the student to whom the reply is given
- Support of agreement/disagreement with the analysis
- Correction of facts, if appropriate
- Appropriate examples from personal experience

Quizzes

Modules 1-7 contain essay quizzes with one essay question. You will have 45 minutes to complete a quiz and must have each quiz completed by the end of the module (**Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT**) in which it appears. ALL quizzes count towards the final grade and are not graded on a curve.

Term Paper:

A basic component of a well-rounded college education is the ability to exercise basic scholarly skills by doing original research, developing a research thesis, revisiting a work-in-progress, and presenting concepts in a scholarly format. For the Term Paper assignment, the student will need to take some aspect of this course and narrow it down

to a concise thesis and then develop a 1500-1800 word scholarly research paper on that thesis.

This assignment should be typewritten, double-spaced, in Times New Roman, 12-point font, and should include proper language, grammar, and spelling. A title page and a citation page is required with a minimum of three (3) properly cited sources in APA format.

A draft version of the paper, consisting of at least 500 words will be due by the conclusion of Module 5. The final version of the paper will be due by the conclusion of Module 7.

You must submit your Term Paper to Chalk and Wire. The Chalk & Wire link is located in the Content tool of Module 7. Students who do not submit the assignment to Chalk & Wire will receive a zero. This is a key assignment assessment; the results are used to ensure students are meeting University Exploration program goals. Video and PDF instructions can be found on the course home page. PDF instructions are also located in the Start Here folder.

Comprehensive Final Exam:

Module 8 contains a comprehensive essay-based exam, consisting of a question drawn from the material presented throughout the course. You will have 60 minutes to complete the exam and must have it completed by the end of the module (**Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT**). The exam counts towards the final grade and is not graded on a curve.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Score (%)
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	0-59

Course Schedule:

Module 1 Ancient Greece and Rome

Objectives

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Examine the evolution of democratic norms in ancient times.
- Summarize the history of evolution of the concept of “Natural Law in ancient times.”
- Communicate the responsibilities of democratic citizenship as discussed in Pericles Funeral Oration.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read all assigned material	
Post an initial response to the Discussion Board	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 1	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Topic for Term Paper	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 2 Revolution Democracy—America and France

Objectives

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Outline the development of democratic core value of natural rights through Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and the French Declaration of the Rights of Man.
- Identify the emergence of the political institution of “separation of powers” through Montesquieu.
- Appraise the influence of Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau as reflected in the American Declaration of Independence.
- Estimate the effect of social and cultural differences in the aftermath of the American and French Revolutions.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read all assigned material	
Post an initial response to the Discussion Board	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 2	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Term Paper Topic	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 3**Tocqueville and the Dread of/Hope for Democracy****Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Analyze Tocqueville's observations related to blacks and Indians as a basis for contemplating advances or ground lost in those areas since his visit.
- Examine Tocqueville's observations related to the freedom of the press to stimulate thinking and discussion around the issue of the extensive consolidation of the American news media.
- Dissect Tocqueville's observations related to the tyranny of the majority to seek consensus for ways to move beyond tyranny in American society.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read all assigned material	
Post an initial response to the Discussion Board	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 3	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 4**Civil War and Great Depression****Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Identify changing American values by considering the views of John C. Calhoun within the context of his time.
- Distinguish the impact of the Lincoln and FDR presidencies that changed the reach of federal institutions and sharpened the government focus on social norms through emancipation, woman suffrage, and the New Deal.
- Compare the philosophical bases between Social Darwinism and the New Deal.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read all assigned material	
Post an initial response to the Discussion Board	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 4	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 5 **Four Different Western Democracies**

Objectives

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Compare the three primary federal relationships that have been implemented by Western democratic nations by contrasting Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland, and Canada.
- Relate the differences among the institutions of Western democracies.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read all assigned material	
Post an initial response to the Discussion Board	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Essay 5	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit the Term Paper – Rough Draft	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 6 **America’s Constitutional Democratic Republic and Mixed Presidential-Parliamentary Democracies**

Objectives

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Analyze political and cultural differences by comparing and contrasting the national executive leadership among Western and non-Western nations.
- Theorize upon the importance of encouraging civic engagement and confidence-building through political deliberation.
- Explain the key differences between the democratically-controlled executives of the United States and France as compared with authoritarian style of the Russian president.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read all assigned material	
Post an initial response to the Discussion Board	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 6	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 7 **Enemies of Democracy**

Objectives

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- List the modern alternatives to democracy.
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of these non-democratic regimes.

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
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Assignments

Read all assigned material	
Post an initial response to the Discussion Board	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 7	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit the Term Paper	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 8**The Future of Democracy****Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Assess current and future challenges to current democratic regimes, including terrorism, inequality, mass immigration, and changing environmental conditions.
- Describe the interplay between democracy, separatism, and globalism.
- Identify conditions necessary to nurture democracy in the 21st century.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read all assigned material	
Post an initial response to the Discussion Board	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete the Final Exam	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT