Introduction to Politics: Theorising the Democratic State - Themes

Lectures
Michaelmas Term 2009 Tuesday 10.00 Examination Schools
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The reading and references for these lectures are as on the reading list published by the Department of Politics:
http://www.politics.ox.ac.uk/teaching/ug/reading_lists/prelims/
The powerpoint presentation for each lecture will be available each week from my website:
http://users.ox.ac.uk/~efrazer/teaching.htm

Later in the term there will be WebLearn course site, on which you can post questions and queries; as soon as the site address is available I will announce it.

Week 1. Democracy and Freedom
Week 2. Majorities and Representation
Week 3. Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy
Week 4: Elitism
Week 5: Who rules?
Week 6: Associational Life
Week 7: Political theory and justification
Week 8: Freedom, Democracy and State.

Associated topics, from the Dept reading list; and references from the lectures.

Week 1. Democracy and Freedom


Week 2.  **Majorities and Representation**  
Associated topic: 1.2. Democracy: what is it? is it desirable?


Burke, Edmund ‘Speech to the Electors of Bristol’ 1774:  
[http://presspubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/v1ch13s7.html](http://presspubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/v1ch13s7.html)


Week 3.  **Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy**  
Associated topic: 1.2. Democracy: what is it? is it desirable?


Fishkin, James: *Democracy and Deliberation: new directions for democratic reform* 1991


Week 4:  **Elitism**  
Associated topic: 2. Power and influence in a democratic state; 2.2. Who rules in a democracy?


Week 5:  
**Who rules?**

Associated topics: 3. Ideology and democratic politics; 3.1. The nature of ideology; 3.2. Ideology and political practice

Marx, Karl (1897 fp German 1852), *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* (Rare Reprint edn.: Kessinger Publishing).

Week 6:  
**Associational Life**

Associated topics: 4: Democracy and associational life; 4.2. The role of civil society; 5: The public choice approach to democracy

Week 7:  **Political theory and justification**

Week 8:  **Freedom, Democracy and State.**
Associated topics: 6: Liberty: its nature and limits;  6.1. The concept of liberty;  6.3. The limits of liberty
