Consider the history of political theory and political institutions in Western societies, the course will focus on and discuss two main questions:
(1) Mechanisms for collective decision-making, and
(2) Conceptualization of the threat to political order.
Comparing Athenian “demokratía” in the 4th century B.C. and contemporary representative government, we will explore some crucial dimensions of democratic theory and practice. In connection with (2) we will discuss, moreover, changes in paradigm of doctrines of “good government” from the ancient “mixed” constitution to “constitutional” democracy.
Reading will include secondary literature and selection from major political thinkers like Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Madison, Kelsen, Schumpeter, Dahl.
II. Course requirements

Students will be required to write three take-home papers over the course of the semester (by early October, early November and late November). The professor will assign topics for these papers. The papers have to be four/five pages long. There will be no final examination. The final grade will reflect both the grades of the three papers (20% for each of them) and attendance and participation in classroom/recitations discussion (40%)

III. Schedule [draft]

1. Introduction and presentation of the course.

2. Religion and Politics in the Western Culture: The Bible and the Gospel.

3. Human societies and their institutions. Membership and decision-making mechanisms.
   Reading: Wikipedia: acclamation, voting, majority rule, unanimity, etc.

4. Majority rule and forms of government
   Reading: p.pasquino on Pufendorf and majority rule

5./6./7. Majority rule: pros and cons.
   Reading: R. Dahl, Democracy and its critics, chapters 10-13, pp.135-192

8. Δημοκρατία (Greek democracy) and representative government
   Reading: J. Dunn, Setting the people free: The story of democracy, chapter 1.

9./10. The institutions of the Athenian democracy (in the 4th century)

11./12. Hans Kelsen and the modern democracy


13./14 Joseph Schumpeter: a minimalist conception?

Reading: Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy [1942], chapters 20-23 [on the web] and A. Przeworski, A minimalist conception of democracy.

15. Forms of government – Aristotle’s and Montesquieu’s taxonomies

Reading: my figure and *Politics*, Book III, chapters 6, 7, 8

16. Anatomy of the city

Reading: p. pasquino, Aristotle and Machiavelli

17. Mixed government

Reading: Aristotle, *Politics*, Book IV, chapter 3, 4, 11

18./19. The Aristotelian tradition: Polybius, Thomas Aquinas, Machiavelli


20. “The Prince” and its conundrum

Reading: *The Prince*, chapters 1-11

21. Politics and threat: shift of paradigm


22. Hobbes and the absolute representation

23. Locke and the limited government

Reading: *The Second Treatise of Government*, # 77-94; 211-241

24. James Madison and the self enforcing equilibrium of the American constitution

Reading: *Federalist Papers*, # 47-51

25. Alexander Hamilton and the constitutional role of the judicial power

Reading: *Federalist Papers*, # 78

26./27. Courts and “constitutional” democracy


**IV/a. Bibliography: Sources**


