

# WSSR WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

## Reconstituting Liberal Democracy

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UK House of Lords

March 30, 2017 & March 31, 2017

5:30pm-7:30pm 9:00am-1:00pm

Liberal democracy is basically democracy as conceived and structured within the liberal framework. It benefits from the virtues of liberalism but also suffers from its limitations. Since its emergence in the 19th century, liberal democracy has been subjected to several criticisms. These include its privileging of liberty over equality and the consequent marginalization of the latter as a major political objective. They also include its failure to recognize and respect group identities.

This course will consider these and related criticisms and ask if and how liberal democracy needs to be reconstituted to meet them.

### **Required Readings\***

1. Trevor Norris, ed. (2016) Strong Democracy in Crisis, Lexington Books, See especially the chapter by Bhikhu Parekh titled Reconstituting Liberal Democracy. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EEF322>
2. Michael Caminal, Democracy, Federation and Plurinational States, in Ferran Requejo and Michael Caminal, eds. (2011) Political Liberalism and Plurinational Democracies, Routledge.  
<http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EEF321>
3. Amy Gutmann, "The Politics of Recognition" in Charles Taylor, ed. (1994), Multiculturalism, Princeton University Press.  
<http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EEF2E9>
4. Will Kymlicka, Multicultural Citizenship (1995) Clarendon Press, Oxford. Especially chapters 4 (Rethinking the Liberal Tradition) and 6 (Justice and Minority Rights).  
<http://0-dx.doi.org/mercury.concordia.ca/10.1093/0198290918.001.0001>
5. Philip, Resnick, Accommodating National Differences within Multinational State, in Ramón Maiz and Ferrau Requejo, eds (2005) Democracy, Nationalism and Multiculturalism, Routledge.  
<http://0-lib.myilibrary.com/mercury.concordia.ca/Open.aspx?id=9633>

### **Recommended Readings**

1. Michael Sandel, Democracy's Discontent: America in Search of a Public Philosophy (1996) Harvard Univ. Press. Especially chapter 1: Public Philosophy of Contemporary Liberalism.  
<http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EEF31E>
2. John Dunn, (2005) Setting the People Free: The Story of Democracy, Atlantic Books. Especially Ch. 4: Why Democracy?  
<http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EEF2CA>

\*If you are registered for non-credit and are unable to locate the readings, please contact us at [wssr@concordia.ca](mailto:wssr@concordia.ca)