PT 328. Dilemmas of Popular Sovereignty
(joint course by Bard College Berlin and Hertie School of Governance)

Instructors: Ewa Atanassow (BCB), Christine Landfried (Hertie), Ira Katznelson (Columbia)
Guests: Claus Offe (Hertie), Ulrich Preuß (Hertie), Christopher McCrudden (Queens University Belfast)
Course Times: Wed 17:30-19 @ BCB and Fri 10:00-11:40 @ Hertie (Friedrichstraße 180 | 10117, Berlin)
Email: e.atanassow@berlin.bard.edu (Ewa Atanassow, Coordinator)
Office Hours: Set by individual instructors

Description
The principle of popular sovereignty posits that, to be legitimate, authority must rest with the people – the very people who are subject to that same authority. Premised on a certain vision of humanity, statehood, citizenship and belonging, popular sovereignty has become the paradigmatic way of legitimizing political power and has informed a great deal of historical and institutional analysis.

In this collaborative course, made possible by the generous support of the Social Science Research Council, we will study contemporary problems of democratic governance related to questions of popular legitimation by illuminating their historical roots and theoretical ramifications. Deploying the concept of popular sovereignty and situating its elements in contemporary and historical cases (17th century Britain, early American Union, Brexit and the European Union, contemporary populism) the course aims to develop analytical and interpretive tools that are applicable across a wide range of present and past instances. The questions it will ask include: What does it mean for a people to be sovereign, and who can belong to a sovereign people? How and when does the people appear in political life, through what institutions or modes of representation? What is the social and cultural basis of popular sovereignty, and how does it evolve? Drawing on different modes of investigation, and comparing diverse historical and geo-political perspectives, we will aim to gain a deeper understanding of both current policy challenges and inherent dilemmas of liberal democracy.

Readings
Required Texts
* On-line reader
Additional Readings on Reserve in the Library

Library and Book Purchase Policies
Students are expected to have at their disposal a hard copy of all required texts. A limited number of the required books are available on loan from the library. Students on financial aid have a priority in requesting library books.

Requirements

Attendance and Participation
Careful preparation, regular attendance and active participation are essential to the success of this course. Preparing for class means reading thoughtfully and engaging with the course materials, for instance, by taking notes while reading and thinking through the argument in a particular reading assignment, or by looking over in advance the description of an exhibition we will visit. To aid your preparatory effort, this syllabus includes short blurbs and study questions for the course readings. **Please note: coming late or leaving in the middle of the sessions will count as absence. Absences beyond two reduce your seminar grade one letter.**

Grading and Assignments
Assessment will be based on seminar participation including protocol writing (20%), two 750-word long response papers (30%), a proposal for a final essay topic (10%) and a substantial final essay of up to 3000 words (40%).

**Participation and protocol writing:** As part of the course participation students will take turns in producing protocols for each session. A ‘protocol’ is a 1-2 page synthetic version of class notes recapitulating the main focus and bullet-pointing the key issues raised in the discussion.

**Response papers:** over the course of the semester, each student is expected to write two response papers (ca. 750 words each), whose aim is to analyse a particular theme or claim advanced in the readings for a given session, and articulate questions for discussion. The response papers should be circulated online by midnight on Thursdays at the latest.
Proposal: students will be invited to formulate the topic they would like to tackle in the final essay and discuss it with the relevant instructor. To facilitate this process, they will be encouraged to submit by Saturday, May 5, a proposal for the question of the final essay. The deadline for the essay is May 18, 2018.

Composition of Final Grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>seminar participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>two response papers x 15 %</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>proposal for a final essay question</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>final essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Policy on Late Submission of Papers
Please note the following policy the Student Handbook on the submission of essays: essays that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Deadlines at a glance
The schedule for protocol writing and the response papers will be set up by Friday, February 16
Proposal for final essay: Saturday, 5 May
Final Essay deadline: Friday, 18 May

Sessions and Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date and Location</th>
<th>Content and Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>31.01., 17:30 @ BCB</td>
<td>Introductory: Why Popular Sovereignty?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>03.02., 10:00 @ BCB</td>
<td>Morgan, <em>Inventing the People</em>, pp. 13-15</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>08.02., 18:30 @ Hertie</td>
<td>Opening Keynote by Ira Katznelson (Columbia/Cambridge)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>09.02., 10:00 @ Hertie</td>
<td>Dilemmas of Popular Sovereignty</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>13.02., 17:30 @ BCB</td>
<td><strong>Case study I: Popular Sovereignty in 17th Century Britain</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>16.02., 10:00 @ Hertie</td>
<td>Morgan, <em>Inventing the People</em>, chs. 3-5 (pp. 55-121)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>20.02., 17:30 @ BCB</td>
<td>Hobbes, <em>On the Citizen</em>, chs. 1, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13 (pp. 21-31, 69-74, 115-126, 131-152)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>23.02., 10:00 @ Hertie</td>
<td>Locke, <em>Second Treatise on Government</em>, chs. 2, 5, 7-10, 18, 19 (pp. 269-278, 285-302, 318-355, 398-428)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>27.02., 17:30 @ BCB</td>
<td>Sovereignty and Representation - Guest: Ulrich Preuß</td>
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<td>02.03., 10:00 @ Hertie</td>
<td>Readings TBA</td>
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Case study II: Popular Sovereignty and the American Union

06.03., 17:30 @ BCB
Morgan, *Inventing the People*, ch. 6, 10-11, (pp. 122-148, 239-287)

09.03., 10:00 @ Hertie

13.03., 17:30 @ BCB

16.03., 10:00 @ Hertie
Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, vol. 1 part 1 ch. 4; part 2 ch. 1,7 (pp. 91-97, 278-279, 402-426)

20.03., 17:30 @ BCB
Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, vol. 1 part 2 ch. 10, (pp. 515-522, 582-627)

23.03., 10:00 @ Hertie


SPRING BREAK

03.04., 17:30 @ BCB
Case study III: Popular Sovereignty and the European Union

06.04., 10:00 @ Hertie

10.04., 17:30 @ BCB
European Council, Guidelines following the United Kingdom’s notification under Article 50 TEU”, Brussels, 29 April 2017.


13.04., 10:00 @ Hertie
The Supreme Court, Judgment R (on the application of Miller and another) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, Judgement of 24 January 2017.

17.04., 17:30 @ BCB
20.04., 10:00 @ Hertie

27.04., 10:00 @ Hertie

27.04., 12:30 @ Hertie
Keynote by Claus Offe (Hertie School of Governance)

01.05., 17:30 @ BCB
Federal Holiday

04.05., 10:00 @ Hertie

07.05., 18:00 @ Hertie
Concluding Keynote by Christopher McCrudden (Queens University Belfast/Michigan Law School)

09.05., 17:30 @ BCB
Wrap up

Final Essays due 23:59 on Friday May 18