This course examines the role of citizens in a democratic society. Scholars are divided on normative and empirical questions about how much influence citizens ought to and do in fact exert. We focus on three major points. First, we look at how citizens influence the policy process through elections, interest groups, and public opinion. Next, we turn look at which citizens are likely to influence policy and in what ways. Finally, we reverse the causal arrows and look at a new body of literature on how public policies affect citizen participation more generally. This class builds across subfields and will be useful to MA and PhD students interested in democratic theory, public policy, mass political behavior, and political development.

**TEXTS**
The syllabus lists a number of pieces for each week. Only the starred (*) items are required, the others are recommended. There are seven required texts and a selection of articles. The books, listed below, are available for purchase at Mary Jane Books or on Amazon.com. The readings are on the course website (eres)


In addition to the books and articles, it is a good idea to keep abreast of political news. You should be able to get a discounted student rate if you would like home delivery of a newspaper, or alternatively, you can register to read the paper online or at the library.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The grades for this course will be based on the following three items:

- Four Response Papers (30%)
- Final Paper (50%)
- Class Participation (20%)

Response Papers: During the course of the semester you are required to write four response papers. These papers integrate the readings for the week and provide your own thoughtful evaluation and criticism. Papers should evaluate a common theme in the readings, provide analysis and critique. I will look for a strong thesis statement, a strong and well supported argument (use the texts that we are reading or have read to back you up), counterarguments and conclusions. Please avoid long summaries of the reading. This is a chance for you to critically reflect on and engage the reading. Papers should be between 3 and 4 pages long.

Final Paper: If you are taking this course for full credit, you will be required to write either a 25 page research paper or a literature review. The second option is especially useful for students preparing for comprehensive exams or beginning work on their theses/dissertations. Please discuss your topic with me before writing your paper. Those students who are taking the class for 2 credits will be required to write the response papers and participate in seminar discussion, there is no required final paper.

Class Participation: Because this is a small class, we will have an active discussion about the ideas and arguments in the reading. Your participation (and even excitement) is essential. You will be required to present on the class material and ask questions for discussion. Please note that additional reading questions and assignments (available electronically) are required. You are expected to come to class ready to engage the reading and your fellow classmates. The date next to the readings indicates when they should be completed. You should read the assigned readings for class on that day.

I. INTRODUCTION

January 18: Introduction to the Course

II. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

January 25: Theories of Citizen Participation in a Democratic Society

*Federalist Paper #10. (eres)
*Judith Shklar, American Citizenship: The Quest for Inclusion. 25-62. (eres)
In Jane J. Mansbridge (ed), Beyond Self Interest. Chicago, University of Chicago Press. Chapter 1.
February 1: What is Citizen Participation?

February 8: Why Do Citizens Participate?

February 15: How Competent are Citizens to Participate?

IV. How Citizens Influence Public Policy

February 22: Campaigns, Elections, and Elite Response to the Electorate
February 29: **Interest Groups**


**Political Parties**


March 7: **Public Opinion**


March 14: No Class

March 21: No Class (WPSA)

March 28: Mass Political Participation


McAdam, Doug, John D. McCarthy, and Mayer N. Zald. 1996. Introduction: Opportunities, Mobilizing Structures, and Framing Processes. In *Comparative Perspectives on Social*
IV. WHICH CITIZENS?

April 4: Representation


April 11: Power


*Foucault, Michel. The History of Sexuality. Selections (course website)
V. HOW PUBLIC POLICY INFLUENCES CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

April 18: Policy Feedback


April 25: Race and Poverty


May 2: Conclusions (Final Paper Due)