**From Jacobins to Zapatistas:**

**Radical Democracy since the French Revolution**

**Course Description:**

This course will examine the global history of radical democracy from the French Revolution to the present. Our task is to trace the various attempts to practice democracy that lie outside of the liberal representative model. Spanning the political spectrum, we will investigate everything from democratic armies and factories, anarchist pirate utopias, to claims by many Germans that Nazi Germany “felt more democratic” than its predecessor the Weimar Republic. What sense are we to make of these exceptions to liberal representative democracy? We will ask what these radical ways of organizing and instituting society offer us and question why and how the liberal model has come to hegemonize our conception of democracy today.

**Course Schedule:**

Session 1-2: Introduction and the Interpretation of the Greeks

**A: The Liberal Democratic Tradition**

Session 3: The Liberal Public Sphere

* Kant, *What Is Enlightenment?*

Sessions 4-5: Curbing the American Revolution

* Sheldon Wolin: Fugitive Democracy
* Terry Bouton: Taming Democracy "The People," the Founders, and the Troubled Ending of the American Revolution

Sessions 6-7: *1789*

* Robert Darnton, *The Great Cat Massacre* (Chap 2)
* Abbé Sieyes: [What is the Third Estate?](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/sieyes.html)
* Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen

**B: Towards a Fully Democratic Society**

Sessions 8-10: The Mythic Present of Republican France (1792-4).

* Cornelius Castoriadis: Democracy as Procedure and Democracy as Regime
* Sheldon Wolin: Democracy Without the Citizen
* Robespierre: On the Principles of Political Morality
* French Constitution of 1793

Session 11: The Haitian Revolution

* James, *The Black Jacobins* (selections)

Session 12-13: From Babeuf to 1871 - The 19th Century Worker’s Movement

* Film Screening: Peter Watkins, *La Commune* (selections)
* Cornelius Castoriadis, ‘Socialism and Autonomous Society’

Sessions 14-16: All Power to the Soviets!

* Israel Getzler, *Kronstadt 1917-1921: The Fate of a Soviet Democracy*

**C: Fascist Democracy?**

Session 17: The Coalitions of Weimar

* Karl Schmitt: *The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy* (selections)
* Leon Trotsky: *Terrorism and Communism* (selections)

Session 18: Nazism and the German *Volksgemeinschaft*

* Peter Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich*: (Reviving the Nation)

**D: Imperial Democracy?**

Sessions 19-20: American Communes and the Kibbutz Movement

* Gavron, Daniel. *The Kibbutz: Awakening from Utopia* (selections)

**E: Anarchist Democracy and Autonomous Zones**

Session 21: Pirates of North Africa, Pirates of the Caribbean

* Peter L. Wilson, *Pirate Utopias: Moorish Corsairs & European Renegadoes*

Session 22: The Situationist International and Poetic Terrorism

* Guy Debord: The Society of the Spectacle (selections)
* Hakim Bey, The Temporary Autonomous Zone

Session 23: The Zapatista Army of National Liberation

* Subcomandante Marcos, *Shadows of Tender Fury* (selections)

**F: Temporality and Radical Democracy**

Session 24: Developing Democracy – Radical Solutions in the Post-colonial World

* Partha Chatterjee, *The Politics of the Governed* (Selections)

Session 25: Democracy and the Politics of Scarcity

* *The Climate Change Challenge and the Failure of Democracy* (selections)