

# An Introduction to Direct Democracy

MIN SHU

WASEDA UNIVERSITY

# An overview of the lecture

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- ▶ Brief self-introduction
- ▶ Why should we study (more) about democracy?
- ▶ Direct democracy at a glance
- ▶ An overview of the course
- ▶ Textbooks and references
- ▶ Grading methods
- ▶ Q & A

# A brief self-introduction

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- ▶ SHU, Min (舒 旻)
- ▶ Research Interests:
  - ▶ Comparative regionalism
  - ▶ Liberal ordering
  - ▶ International relations in history
- ▶ School of International Liberal Studies
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# Why should we study (more) about democracy?

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- ▶ What is democracy?
- ▶ What does it mean to be democratic?
- ▶ Could democracy solve all the problems of our world?
- ▶ Democracy as a normative belief vs. democracy as an empirical phenomenon

# Direct democracy at a glance

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- ▶ The oldest form of democracy in history
  - ▶ Direct democracy in Classic Athens
- ▶ Still widely practised in our world
  - ▶ Voting on constitutional amendment, regional integration, independence, and other important public issues
- ▶ Direct democracy and representative democracy
  - ▶ Contradictory or complementary?
- ▶ Direct democracy could be both exciting and boring...

# An overview of the course

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- ▶ The course consists of three parts
  - ▶ The history of direct democracy
  - ▶ Functional properties of direct democracy
  - ▶ Normative and positive assessment of direct democracy
- ▶ The arrangement of weekly classes
  - ▶ [Class 1] Introduction and Guidance
  - ▶ [Class 2] Direct Democracy in Ancient Athens and Rome
  - ▶ [Class 3] Direct Voting and the French Revolution
  - ▶ [Class 4] The Birth of Modern Direct Democracy: Switzerland and New England
  - ▶ [Class 5] The Institutional Settings of Direct Democracy I
  - ▶ [Class 6] The Institutional Settings of Direct Democracy II

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- ▶ [Class 7] Consolidating Leadership: Referendums in Nazi Germany and Postwar France
- ▶ [Class 8] Advocating Self-Determination: Referendums and the Birth of New States
- ▶ [Class 9] Legitimizing Public Policy-Making: Referendums and European Integration
- ▶ [Class10] Direct Democracy in ACTION !
- ▶ [Class11] Direct Voting in Normative Democratic Theories
- ▶ [Class12] Understanding Voting Behavior in Direct Democracy
- ▶ [Class13] Political Representation and Direct Democracy
- ▶ [Class14] Summary & Guidance on Term Essay

# Textbooks and references

## ► Textbook

- Butler, David and Ranney, Austin (1994) *Referendums Around the World: The Growing Use of Direct Democracy*, Washington D.C.: AEI Press.
- LeDuc, Lawrence (2003) *The Politics of Direct Democracy : Referendums in Global Perspective*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press.



# Textbooks and references

## ► References

- Altman, David (2011) *Direct Democracy Worldwide*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bowler, Shaun and Donovan, Todd (1998) *Demanding Choices: Opinion, Voting and Direct Democracy*, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Budge, Ian (1996) *The New Challenge of Direct Democracy*, Cambridge: Polity Press
- Mendelsohn, Matthew and Parkin, Andrew (eds.) (2001) *Referendum Democracy: Citizens, Elites, and Deliberation in Referendum Campaigns*, New York; Palgrave
- Morel, Laurence and Matt Qvortrup (eds.) (2017) *The Routledge Handbook to Referendums and Direct Democracy*, London: Routledge.
- Setälä, Maija (1999) *Referendums and Democratic Government: Normative Theory and Analysis of Institutions*, London: MacMillan.

# Grading methods

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- ▶ Teaching methods
  - ▶ Lecture + class discussion + term paper
- ▶ Grading criteria
  - ▶ Attendance (20%)
  - ▶ Class discussion (20%)
  - ▶ Term Paper (60%)
- ▶ Questions and Answers

# Reading suggestion for next week's class

- ▶ Josiah Ober (1989) 'Democracy: Athenian and Modern', in *Mass and Elite in Democratic Athens: Rhetoric, Ideology, and the Power of the People*, Princeton University Press, pp. 3~11.
- ▶ Millar, Fergus (1998) 'The Crowd in Rome: What Sort of Democracy?', in *The Crowd in Rome in the Late Republic*, University of Michigan Press, pp. 197-226.