

Political Discourse in the Twenty-First Century

Prof. Darren Zook

This four-week course will situate the civil discourse of democracy in the larger context of political discourse in general. The intent behind the course is to explain why democracy is currently in the crisis it is in, what the central role of civil/political discourse is in the context of democratic governance, and how the revival and expansion of civil/political discourse is essential to the project of restoring trust in democratic institutions. The course will be international and comparative in its perspective, drawing on a diverse array of examples from political systems, societies, and cultures from around the world (including, of course, the United States).

Week One

What is political discourse? Understanding the language of democracy

Week One

Can we talk? The production and dissemination of political information

Week One

The marketplace of ideas: the relationship between capitalism and democracy

Week One

Democracy in words: Learning how to read all over again