The Syllabus for ‘Whither Democracy?’

All sessions to be held on alternate Fridays at 10 am in Room 5

Opening Session: Sept 21, 2018

1st hour: Welcome and Introductions.
          A brief history of democracy to the late 18th century

2nd hour: What are the fundamentals of a liberal Democracy?

Session 2: Oct 5, 2018

The wayward trajectories of democracies around the world

1st hour: Samuel Huntington’s concept of the three ‘waves’ of democracy

2nd hour: The rise of semi-authoritarianism/illiberal democracy and the issue of a
          ‘democratic recession’

Session 3: Oct 19, 2018

Democracy promotion and subversion: The USA and Russia

1st hour: The United States and its efforts at democracy promotion since 1980.

2nd hour: How and why Putin’s Russia menaces Western democracies

Session 4: Nov 2, 2018

American democracy on trial

1st hour: Was the election of Donald Trump an aberration or the product of existing
          weaknesses/flaws in American style democracy?

2nd hour: Donald Trump as president. Is American democracy in danger?
Session 5: Nov 16, 2018

Canada: How are we doing?

1st hour: How does Canada identify itself as a democracy? The issue of Multiculturism.

2nd hour: Indigenous self-government: An evolving issue

Session 6: Nov 30, 2018

From the ashes of defeat to democracy: Germany and Japan post 1945

1st hour: How did Germany establish and consolidate its democracy? What are the challenges facing German democracy today?

2nd hour: How did Japan establish and consolidate its democracy? What are the challenges facing Japanese democracy today?

Session 7: Jan 18, 2019

From dictatorship to democracy: Two case studies

1st hour: How and why was Chile able to re-establish democracy after Pinochet? What are the challenges facing Chilean democracy today?

2nd hour: How and why was South Korea able to re-establish democracy after 1980? What are the challenges facing South Korean democracy today?

Session 8: Feb 1, 2019

Democracy in reverse: Semi-authoritarianism/illiberal democracy

1st hour: How and why did Poland become an illiberal democracy?

2nd hour: How and why did Turkey become an illiberal democracy under Erdogan?
Session 9: Feb 15, 2019

How fares democracy in the developing world?

1st hour: How and why has South Africa been able to sustain democracy after apartheid? What are the challenges facing South African democracy today?

2nd hour: Tunisia: A democratic model for the Arab world?

Session 10: Mar 1, 2019

India: An improbable democracy.

1st hour: How and why has India with its size, huge population and diversity been able to sustain a democracy?

2nd hour: What are the present day challenges to democracy in India? To what extent are China’s influences and experiences relevant to India’s democracy?

Session 11: Mar 15, 2019

How democratic is Israel?

1st hour: What characteristics (electoral system, civil society etc) make Israel the only functioning democracy in the Middle East since its inception?

2nd hour: What are the vulnerabilities of Israeli democracy? Can Israel be both democratic and Jewish?

Session 12: Mar 29, 2019

Wrap up

1st hour: Trump as president. A post-script

2nd hour: TBA