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PSC 354.01: contemporary Issues in Political Theory - Democracy in Crisis

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Political Science 354
Contemporary Issues in Political Theory:
Democracy in Crisis

Spring, 1996
Professor: Perrin

Required Readings: Letgers, Burke, DiQuattro, eds. *Critical Perspectives on Democracy*
Jean Bethke Elshtain, *Democracy on Trial*
Christopher Lasch, *The Revolt of the Elites*
Douglas Kellner, *Television and the Crisis of Democracy*

Reading and examination schedule:

Week of January 29 Letgers, et al., Introduction and Chapter One.

Week of February 5 Letgers, Chapters Two, Three, and Four.

Week of February 12 Letgers, Chapter Six and Elshtain, Preface and Chapter One.

Week of February 19 Elshtain, Chapters Two, and Three.

Week of February 26 Elshtain, Chapters Four and Five. FIRST EXAMINATION ON FRIDAY, MARCH 1

Week of March 4 Lasch, pp. 3-79.

Week of March 11 Lasch, pp. 80-129. FIRST DRAFT OF TERM PAPER DUE FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Week of March 18 Term paper tutorial sessions.

Week of March 25 Lasch, pp. 161-212.

Week of April 1 Lasch, pp. 213-246. SECOND EXAMINATION OF FRIDAY, APRIL 5.

Week of April 15 Kellner, Chapters One and Two. SECOND DRAFT OF TERM PAPERS DUE FRIDAY, APRIL 19.

Week of April 22 Kellner, Chapter Three.

Week of April 29 Kellner, Chapter Four.

Week of May 6 Kellner, Chapter Five.

FINAL EXAMINATION ON WEDNESDAY MAY 15, 3:20-5:20.

TERM PAPERS: Undergraduate students will prepare a term paper of 5-10 pages in length (graduate students 10-15 pages). The paper will

require further research into one of the themes or issues covered in the course readings and lectures. Other aspects of democracy in crisis (e.g., the militia movement, federal government gridlock, corporate license, public apathy, etc.) may be chosen after consultation with the instructor. The final draft of the term paper is due no later than Friday, May 3.

The final grade will be calculated as follows.

Each examination 20%

Term paper 40%