

PHIL 508S and POLISCI 514S  
**Political Values**  
Fall 2025

Tuesdays, 125 - 355  
Friedl 216

Alex Kirshner  
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**Schedule**

August 26	No reading.
September 2	Estlund, <i>Democratic Authority</i> (Princeton, 2008), ch. 1-3.
Sept 9	Estlund, chh. 4-5.
Sept 16	Estlund, chh. 6-7.
Sept 23	Estlund, chh. 8-9.
Sept 30	Estlund, chh. 11-12.
October 7	Estlund, chh. 14.
Oct 14	<i>Fall break.</i>
Oct 21	Landa and Pevnick, <i>Representative democracy</i> (Oxford, 2025), chh. 1-3.
Oct 28	Landa and Pevnick, ch. 4.
November 4	Landa and Pevnick, ch. 5.
Nov 11	Landa and Pevnick, ch. 6.
Nov 18	Landa and Pevnick, chh. 7-8.
Nov 25	Landa and Pevnick, chh. 9-11.

**Readings**

Readings will be made available in Canvas. Actual books also available for purchase.

## Assignments

Graduate students will be required to write a weekly 600 word essay on the assigned topic. Essays will be due at 9 am in the Canvas dropbox on Tuesdays (i.e., class day). Topics will be posted in Canvas the week before. Everyone has **two** free passes on the short essays, i.e. you may elect not to submit an essay on two weeks of your choosing.

Undergraduates will follow the same regimen, except their essays will be 300 words.

Graduate students are also required to write a 3000 word essay at the end of the term. Students should propose their own topics. 1 page topic proposals are due by e-mail on Friday, October 31. The essay itself is due Monday, December 8.

Undergraduates will have the option to take a final exam in lieu of the longer essay.

Notice: for any written essay you submit, including the weekly ones, you may be called to a 15 minute oral exam on your essay. If you actually wrote the essay yourself, as we hope you did, the 'exam' will be simply boring chat.

## Grading

From each student's 9 short essays (there will be no essay in week 1), we will count your highest 6 grades. These 6 grades will count for 60 percent of your final grade; your longer essay will count for 30 percent; participation will count for the remaining 10 percent.

Notice: if you are happy with 6 of your short essay grades before you have submitted 9 short essays, you still have to write the remaining essays. If you need to know about a penalty for non-compliance, please ask.

## Office hours

Alex Kirshner	By appointment
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