An Introduction to Direct Democracy

Min Shu
School of International Liberal Studies
Waseda University
An overview of the lecture

- Brief self-introduction
- Why should you know more about democracy?
- Direct democracy at a glance
- An overview of the course

- Textbooks and references
- Grading methods
- Q & A
A brief self-introduction

- **SHU, Min (舒 昊)**

- **Research Interests:**
  - Comparative regionalism
  - International political economy
  - Public opinion analysis

- School of International Liberal Studies
- **Office: 11-1419**
- **Office hours: Lunchtime on Tuesday & Thursday**
- **Email:** min.shu@waseda.jp
- **Homepage:** http://www.f.waseda.jp/min.shu/
Why should you know more about democracy?

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

- The oldest form of democracy in history
  - Direct democracy in Classic Athens

- Still widely practised in our world
  - Voting on constitutional amendments, 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

- 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 5] The Institutional Settings of Direct Democracy I
  - [Class 6] The Institutional Settings of Direct Democracy II
An overview of the course

- [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] Legitimating Public Policy-Making: Referendums and European Integration
- [Class 10] Direct Democracy in ACTION!
- [Class 11] Direct Voting in Normative Democratic Theories
- [Class 12] Understanding Voting Behaviour in Direct Democracy
- [Class 13] Political Representation and Direct Democracy
- [Class 14] Guidance on Term Essay
- [Class 15] Summary & Conclusion
Textbooks and references

- Textbook
Textbooks and references

References

Grading methods

- **Teaching methods**
  - Lecture + class discussion + term paper

- **Grading criteria**
  - Attendance (20%)
  - Class discussion (30%)
  - Term Paper (50%)

- Questions and Answers
Reading suggestion for next week's class
