

UNK GENERAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT
Foundational Core: Democracy in Perspective

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of their Democracy in Perspective course, students should be able to:

- 1) Explain the roles that democratic concepts, including individual rights, play in a just democracy.
- 2) Analyze how citizens engage in democracy.
- 3) Evaluate democratic practices across different contexts (such as settings, time, socioeconomic conditions, cultures, and political boundaries).

The purpose of this assignment is to evaluate whether or not these learning objectives have been met. The basics of this assignment are common to all the General Studies Democracy in Perspective courses taught at UNK. Your professor may give you additional instructions that tailor the assignment specifically to your course, such as specifying a different length, the concept/s on which to focus, or the scholars whose work you are to discuss.

ASSESSMENT ASSIGNMENT

Democracy Assessment

Democracy is a beautiful idea—government by and for the people. Democracy promises us the freedom to exercise our highest capacities while it protects us from our own worst tendencies. In democracy as it ought to be, all adults are free to chime in, to join the conversation on how they should arrange their life together. And no one is left free to enjoy the unchecked power that leads to arrogance and abuse. (Paul Woodruff, 2005, First Democracy, p. 3)

Democracy is a principle, a process, and a structure. Democracy is an unfolding process in which citizens collectively face challenges whereby democracy can improve or regress. Since change is a central characteristic of democracy, it varies by time and place.

From your course material you are to analyze a challenge, issue or crisis in democracy. Your analysis must discuss the mobilization or engagement of citizens in regards to your case. If you are examining an historical case discuss how the outcome effected democracy. If your case is ongoing what is the promise or challenge to democracy? Describe the primary actors in your case. What do they want or what do they hope to change?