

H399 (Section 20588) - Honors Colloquium Fall 2008

# DEMOCRACY: OLD AND NEW

*Dr. Strikwerda - 2 credits*

**Mondays 5:30 to 7:30 pm**

We will recreate the intellectual dynamics of one of the most formative periods in human experience: Athens in 403 BC. After nearly thirty years of war, civil strife, and rule by brutal tyrants, democracy has been restored. But many doubts about democracy remain. Students will take roles and over ten class meetings will debate the issues informed by Plato's Republic, the writings of Thucydides, Xenophon, and other contemporary sources.

By examining democracy at its threshold, the game provides a wonderful perspective to consider its subsequent evolution. In particular the game will give us a framework to discuss in the other class sessions the presidential and state election campaigns, and the current state of democracy in the U.S. and the world.

This re-enactment is one of the award-winning "Reacting to the Past" Series from Barnard College which won the Theodore Hesburgh Award in 2004 for pedagogical innovation.

Open to students in the Honors Program, or by special permission of instructor. Students can also register for the three credit section (21043—Permission required); it requires an additional substantial research paper.

Questions? Contact Dr S. at [rstrikwe@iuk.edu](mailto:rstrikwe@iuk.edu) or the Honors Program Suite, Main, Room 221.