

Preview of “What is Public Opinion?”

Department of Political Science and Government
Aarhus University

September 3, 2013

Overview for next week

Readings for Next Week

- Dahl – *Democracy and Its Critics*
- Herbst – *Numbered Voices*
- Downs – *An Economic Theory of Democracy*
- Mansbridge – “Rethinking Representation”

Readings for Next Week

- Dahl – *Democracy and Its Critics*

Dahl

- Under what conditions are citizens fit to self-govern?
- How does/should democracy work?
- How must citizens act in democracy?
- Whose voice should be heard in democracy?

Readings for Next Week

- Dahl – *Democracy and Its Critics*
- Herbst – *Numbered Voices*

Herbst

- What is “public opinion”?
- How do we know public opinion?
- History of public opinion research

Readings for Next Week

- Dahl – *Democracy and Its Critics*
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- Downs – *An Economic Theory of Democracy*

Downs

- An economic model of how democracy works
- Assumptions about citizens that underly that model
- What are citizens supposed to do in democracy?
- How do citizens vote rationally?

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Mansbridge

- Four models of representation
 - Promissory
 - Anticipatory
 - Gyroscopic
 - Surrogate
- How does the public influence their representatives in each model?
- What does each model imply about democracy?

Who will lead discussion next week?

