SESSION V
RECONCEIVING DEMOCRACY AND THE QUESTION OF ITS EXISTENCE

INVITED GUEST SPEAKER

Chair: Clark Butler, Philosophy, IPFW

2:00 pm: Our Democratic Modernity
Milton Fisk, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy
Indiana University, Bloomington

3:00 pm: Inequality and Democracy: Toward a Fuller Concept of Democracy
Danielle Wenner, Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Bioethics
Cleveland Clinic

Reply: Michael Wolf, Political Science, IPFW

4:00 – 4:30 pm: Coffee Break

4:30 pm: Police State America: The Failure of Political Democracy
Andrew Kolin, Professor
Department of Political Science
Hilbert College

Reply: Pat Ashton, Sociology Dept., IPFW

5:30 pm: Words of Imperialism: The Iraqi Invasion Through the Lens of the Peloponnesian War
Sarah McVey & Theodora Giallouri
Department of Political Science
Western Michigan University

Reply: Tom Schneider, Political Science, University of St. Francis

The Crisis of American Democracy
April 27 - 28, 2012
Neff Hall Auditorium
Room 101

IPFW students, faculty, staff and members of the general public are cordially invited to attend and participate in the discussions

Sponsored by The Human Rights Institute, Center of Excellence in Applied Ethics on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) with support of the IPFW Philosophy Department, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Office of Research and External Support
IMPLEMENTING A DEMOCRATIC THINK-TANK ON THE CRISIS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Given the current crisis in the functioning of democracy in America with its many dimensions, the Human Rights Institute is creating an internet forum for threaded discussion of the crisis in general. Further forums are being created on special topics. The purpose is to serve as a kind of democratic research think-tank, serving no special interest, on policy and legislation in the best interest of the American people. The discussions will concern investigation into where the country is, and what direction it should go, and how to get there based on evidence and non-partisan, non-dogmatic logical argument.

When a forum on a special dimension of the crisis reaches a consensus (to be determined), the consensus will be kicked upstairs to the general forum of forums for discussion between members of all sub forums. Each special forum will invite a couple of experts on its special topic. Others will be invited as US citizens with a good general education who are strongly interested in the special topic. Postings by experts will be in language understandable to other members of the forum. Every special forum will be created upon identifying a motivated individual to manage it.

When such a forum reaches a consensus on a public policy or legislative proposal, the proposal will be publicized nationally in any way possible for general discussion by the public. Please help us identify individuals with interest and some expertise to join or manage a threaded discussion forum on some dimension of the crisis facing American Democracy. For further information:

Clark Butler, Human Rights Institute
Phone: 260.481.6464
E-mail: butler@ipfw.edu

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
9:00 am: *The Groundlessness of America*
Thomas Altizer, Professor Emeritus
State University of New York at Stony Brook

SESSION I
FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THE SECURITY OF THE INTERNET
Chair: Jeff Strayer, Philosophy, IPFW

10:00 am: *Communication, Capitalism, and Participation in Democracy*
Michael Falgoust, Instructor
Department of Philosophy
Tulane University

Reply: Christopher Vance, IT Services, IPFW
Jacques Chansavang,Computer Science, IPFW

11:00 – 11:30 am: Coffee Break

11:30 am: *The Meaning of Political Action in the Digital Age*
Asaf Bar-Tura, Instructor
Department of Philosophy
Loyola University Chicago

Reply: Aaron Hess, Communication Dept., IPFW

12:30 – 2:00 pm: Lunch Break

SESSION II
THE FRACKING INDUSTRY PROTEST AND REPLY
Chair: Shelley Hart, Human Rights Inst., IPFW

2:00 pm: *The Crisis of American Democracy and Why Hydraulic Fracking Epitomizes It*
Wendy Lynn Lee, Professor of Philosophy
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

3:00 pm: *What Is Fracking, After All?*
Herschel McDivitt, Director
Oil and Gas Division
State of Indiana

4:00 – 4:30 pm: Coffee Break

SESSION III
GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES
Chair: Abe Schwab, Philosophy, IPFW

4:30 pm: *The Common Chinese and American Struggle for Democracy*
Timothy Huson, Associate Faculty
Philosophy Department
Saint Louis University

Reply: Otto Chang, School of Business, IPFW

5:30 pm: *Historical Materialist Research into Global Corporate Capitalism: A Sketch*
Clark Butler, Professor of Philosophy
Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne

Reply: Milton Fisk, Indiana Univ., Bloomington