

Special Topics:

# Economic Democracy: History, Theory and Practice

URB 651-51803 and URB 451- 51800

Tuesday evenings Fall 2020

This course is being offered at both  
Undergraduate and Graduate levels

Undergraduate course is four (4) credits, Graduate  
is three (3) credits

Enrollment with e-permit from other CUNY schools is  
strongly encouraged.



Professor: **Michael Menser**

The economic turmoil with the COVID pandemic has exposed clearly that the economy works only for the few and is unsustainable. There is rich history where workers and communities have created democratic forms of production, housing, finance, ownership, and consumption. In this class we will look at the history and current state of worker, consumer, and housing cooperatives, as well as clinics, hospitals, credit unions and public banks. We will look at the values that drive them, and debate the ways in which they succeed and fail from different ideological perspectives including capitalist, anti-capitalist, socialist, feminist, anti-racist, indigenous and ecological. We will look at issues of scale for Economic Democracy from neighborhood to city, to state, to federal government with particular attention to solutions being proposed right now, like the Green New Deal as well as how automation and AI are remaking the 21st century political economy, creating possibilities for the globalization of sustainability, resilience and economic democracy.

Readings include the professor's own, "We Decide! Participatory Democracy in Theory and Practice", Kali Akuno, Rebecca Solnit, Andrew Cumbers, Sylvia Federici, Sheila Foster, Johanna Bozuwa, Daniel Aldana Cohen, and Jessica Gordon-Lembach.

As with most of the City University, this course will be delivered using remote learning or in-person as determined by the university, and will be accessible through remote learning as a continuing option through the entire term.

Professor Dr. Michael Menser  
Associate Professor, Philosophy, Urban Sustainability Studies, Caribbean Studies;  
Advisory Board, Center for the Study of Brooklyn, Brooklyn College;  
Doctoral Faculty, Earth and Environmental Science, Environmental Psychology; CUNY GC  
President, Board of Directors; Participatory Budgeting Project  
Associate Director of Public Engagement, Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay

Non-Degree information for those not enrolled at CUNY is [here](#)

Fees for non-degree students: Graduate level: in-state is \$1,552.00, out-of-state is \$2707.00

Undergraduate level: in-state is \$1,897.50, out-of-state is \$3737.50

Interested applicants are asked to contact the professor or the program manager to discuss their interest.

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