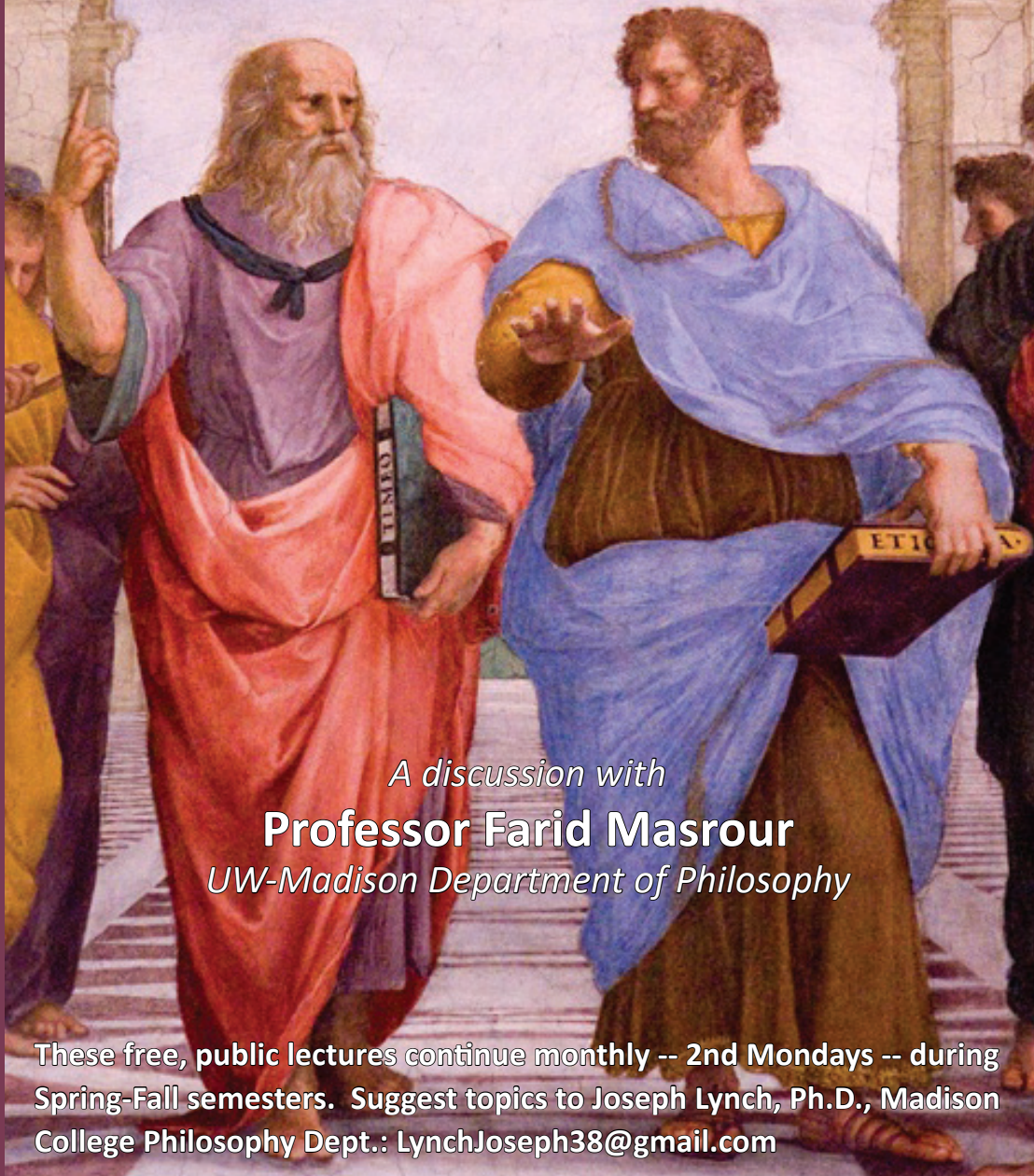


**6 P.M., Mon., Feb. 13, 2017**

Goodman Community Center, Bolz A  
149 Waubesa St., Madison, WI

*Humanities in Community:*

***“Should Epistocracy  
Replace Democracy?”***



*A discussion with*

**Professor Farid Masrour**

*UW-Madison Department of Philosophy*

These free, public lectures continue monthly -- 2nd Mondays -- during Spring-Fall semesters. Suggest topics to Joseph Lynch, Ph.D., Madison College Philosophy Dept.: [LynchJoseph38@gmail.com](mailto:LynchJoseph38@gmail.com)

# *Should Epistocracy Replace Democracy?*

PLATO'S IS ONE OF THE FIRST CRITIQUES OF DEMOCRATIC self-governance. On his view, democracy is problematic because governance requires substantive knowledge and ordinary people lack this knowledge.

Plato therefore proposes a system in which those who have the required knowledge for governance are in power. His view has been criticized for giving rise to a privileged elite class.

The purpose of this talk is to introduce contemporary revival of a Plato-style critique of representative democracy called epistocracy.

Motivated by concerns about representative democracy that are similar to Plato's, epistocrats propose alternatives that would guarantee the rule of the knowledgeable. But they claim that their models do not have the problematic consequences that Plato's model had. We will scrutinize the epistocratic critique of representative democracy and their proposed alternatives.