



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Political Science

1SK170 Demokratiutmaningar för fritidspolitiker, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Democracy challenges to politicians, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Political Science

Subject Group

Political Science

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Social Sciences 2020-02-05

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2020

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for university studies.

Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students shall be able to:

- compare the advantages and disadvantages of a democratic system in relation to regency,
- account for the challenges that complicate political allocation of seats and demand for accountability,
- describe the meaning of political populism,
- argue for the importance of opposition and political conflict in a democracy,
- account for theories of the forming of coalitions and the applications at the local government level,
- account for forms of cooperation at the local government level and the development in this area in recent years.

Content

The course provides a general orientation into the theories of democratization. The conditions and function of democracy are problematized by the use of theoretical models and concrete examples, particularly at the level of local government. Populism is discussed and analysed as a phenomenon and the students learn how to in different ways approach political conflicts. The course also looks into the formation of coalitions and forms of cooperation at the level of local government. On the basis of the theoretical foundation of the course, students are given the opportunity to hold fruitful discussions on current challenges within the Swedish politics at the local government and regional levels.

Type of Instruction

Teaching takes place in the form of lectures and seminars.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E, Fx or F.

Grade A represents the highest grade, and the subsequent grades follow in descending order, where grade E is the lowest grade that qualifies as a Pass. A grade of F means that the student's performance is assessed as Fail. Fx is not a grade and is only used when a student is permitted to supplement his/her examination.

Examination of the course objectives takes place by means of seminars on individual written assignments (3 credits) and a quiz (4.5 credits). The final grade in the course is determined by means of a weighted assessment where the quiz carries the most weight.

In order to pass the course, i.e. receive a grade of E, all the examination assignments and the intended learning outcomes must be attained. In order to receive a final grade of D-A in the course, it is required that the criteria for the respective grade are attained based on a weighted assessment of the examination assignments.

A retake of the examination is provided in accordance with the Local Regulations for First-cycle and Second-cycle Courses and Examination at Linnaeus University.

Should the university determine that a student has the right to special educational support due to impairment, the examiner may provide the student with an adapted test or the student may carry out the examination in an alternative way.

Course Evaluation

A course evaluation is carried out either during or at the end of the course. Results and analysis are presented to the students who have completed the course as well as to new students at the following course date. The course evaluation is conducted anonymously.

Credit Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course: 1SK203 Challenges of Democracy 7.5 credits, 2SHÄ12, Social Studies IV 7.5 credits

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Dahl, Robert (Latest edition). *Democracy and its Critics*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 350 p.

Gilljam, Mikael & Jörgen Hermansson (Eds.) (Latest edition). *Demokratins mekanismer*. Liber. Selected pages, ca. 200 p.

Wångmar, Erik (2011). "Ingen kopia av riksdagsvalet". *Statsvetenskaplig Tidskrift*, ISSN 0039-0747, Vol. 113, no. 4, pp. 449-463.

Additional scientific articles or excerpts from books, approx. 300 p.