



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Political Science

1SK203 Demokratins utmaningar, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Challenges of Democracy, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Political Science

Subject Group

Political Science

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G1F

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Social Sciences 2018-08-22

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2019

Prerequisites

Political Science 30 credits, or the equivalent.

Objectives

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

- explain and summarise a specific problem area of political science: normative democratic theory,
- evaluate and conduct a critical reasoning concerning modern democracy from different perspectives, and
- independently – orally and in writing – apply democratic theory to actual problems of society.

Content

The course highlights different ways of analytically viewing democracy, as well as democracy's problems and conditions in a globalised world. The focus is on the principal positions within normative democratic theory and the associated fundamental issues.

Type of Instruction

Instruction takes place by means of lectures, practical assignments, supervision 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.

In order to receive a grade of Pass (E) in the course, all the examination assignments and course objectives must be fulfilled.

Examination of the course objectives takes place by means of a written exam and by participating in two seminars. The final grade D-A in the course is determined by the grade for the written exam, provided that the participation in the seminars has been fulfilled.

Information about the grading criteria of the A-F scale is given in a special document provided at the start of the course, at the latest.

Course Evaluation

A course evaluation is carried out either during or at the end of the course. Results and analysis of the evaluation 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: 1SK200, module 1, 7.5 credits and 1SK202, module 1, 7.5 credits

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

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

Mair, Peter (Latest edition). *Ruling the Void. The Hollowing out of Western Democracy*. London: Verso, 142 p. Available on the Internet.

Müller, Jan-Werner (Latest edition). *What is Populism?* Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 99 p. Available on the Internet.

Additional scientific journal articles, amounting to approximately 350 pages.