



## 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 2018-08-22

Revised 2021-01-27 by Faculty of Social Sciences.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2022

**Prerequisites**

Political Science 30 credits, or the equivalent.

### Objectives

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

- explain and summarise basic principles, theories and conceptual tools useful for understanding the challenges of democracy,
- evaluate and conduct a critical reasoning of the challenges or crises taking place inside today's societies notably with regards to democratic erosion/backsliding/deconsolidation, inequality, fake news/disinformation and the rise of populism,
- sharpen the understanding of how these challenges will shape the future trajectory of global democracy,
- gain theoretical, empirical context to help them understand our unique political moment,
- independently – orally and in writing – apply democratic theory to actual problems of society.

## Content

The course highlights different ways of analytically viewing and understanding the challenges to democracy, as well as providing insights into how these challenges will shape the future trajectory of global democracy. The course will be drawn on evidence from a range of countries worldwide (e.g., European countries and those of North America etc.). Overall, students will gain theoretical, empirical context to help them understand our unique political moment.

## Type of Instruction

This course will use three main methods of instruction and learning: lectures, seminars and peer-learning workgroups.

## Examination

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

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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, individual/group assignment and by participating in two seminars. Information about the grading criteria of the AF 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 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: 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, JanWerner (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.