



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Political Science

1SK203 Demokratins utmaningar, 7,5 högskolepoäng

1SK203 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 2023-10-18 by Faculty of Social Sciences. Revision of course literature.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2024

Prerequisites

The courses Political Ideas, Swedish Politics and Public Administration, Comparative Politics and International Politics 1-30 credits, alternatively Political Science I/Political Science A, 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.

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, 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.

Resit examination is offered in accordance with Linnaeus University's Local regulations for courses and examination at the first- and second-cycle levels.

In the event that a student with a disability is entitled to special study support, the examiner will decide on adapted or alternative examination arrangements.

Course Evaluation

A course evaluation should be conducted during the course or in connection with its conclusion. The results and analysis of the completed course evaluation should be promptly communicated to students who have completed the course. Students participating in the next course instance should be informed of the results of the previous course evaluation and any improvements that have been made, no later than at the start of the course.

Credit Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following course/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.

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

Tambe, Elvis Bisong. (2021). *Electoral Participation in Newly Consolidated Democracies: Turnout in Africa, Latin America, East Asia and Post-Communist Europe*. Abingdon, Oxon, Routledge. ISBN: 9780367715700. Ca 60 p.

Additional scientific journal articles, amounting to approximately 350 pages.