



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Political Science

4SK404 Demokrati och diktatur, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Democracy and Dictatorship, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Political Science

Subject

Political Science

Level

Second cycle

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2018-08-22.

Revised 2024-12-11.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2026.

Prerequisites

Minimum of 90 credits in a main field of study in the social sciences or economics, or an equivalent subject. English 6 or equivalent.

Objectives

After completing the course, students shall be able to:

- account for essential theoretical and empirical research findings and distinctions, similarities and differences within the theme democratic, authoritarian and totalitarian forms of governance
- independently analyse and evaluate the predominant theoretical and empirical contributions to the areas of democratic, authoritarian and totalitarian forms of governance

- adopt a critical and scientific approach to current literature in these areas
- orally as well as in writing contribute with their own views on these areas.

Content

The course discusses democratic and various authoritarian and totalitarian forms of governance based on normative theories and empirical research. Classical as well as modern theories and empirical research are addressed. The course also discusses the challenges that democracy today is confronted with from various directions, including the fact that several great powers and major regional powers in Europe presently are not democratic, and what this may entail in a normative perspective as well as in relation to Realpolitik.

Type of Instruction

Teaching consists of lectures and seminars.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E 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 an individual written assignment which is also presented orally at a seminar. In order to receive a grade of E, it is required that all the course objectives are attained. Information about the grading criteria of the A-F scale is given in a separate 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.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Applebaum, Anne. (Latest edition). *Twilight Of Democracy: The Seductive Lure of Authoritarianism*. New York: Knopf (224 p).

Brennan, Jason. (2016). *Against democracy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, (288 p). ISBN: 9780691162607.

Linz, Juan J. (Latest edition). *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes*. Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers Inc, (342 p).

Ringen, Stein. (2016). *The Perfect Dictatorship: China in the 21st Century*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, (208 p). ISBN: 9789888208944.

Scientific articles also included, approx. 200 pages.