



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

EU1141 Democracy and the European Union, 7.5 credits

Demokrati och Europeiska Unionen, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Political Science on 2013-02-07 and was last revised on 2021-12-21 to be valid from 2022-01-17, spring semester of 2022.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Political Science

Position in the educational system

The course is a core course in European Studies in the first cycle and given as a single subject course. The course is also given as a single subject course for exchange students.

Main field of studies

European Studies

Specialization

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Entry requirements

General entrance requirements

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Describe the institutions, processes, and main actors of the European Union (the EU)
- Account for criticisms of an internal ‘democratic deficit’ of the EU, focusing on political parties, public opinion and elections

- Describe European integration and voter behavior regarding elections to the European Parliament and national parliaments.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of European identity in relation to democracy

Competence and skills

- Discuss scholarly literature and compare different perspectives on democracy and the EU, orally and in writing
- Independently produce text in accordance with good academic practice, including proper citation technique and use of references
- Communicate clearly and proficiently in English both orally and in writing

Judgement and approach

- Critically reflect upon the democratic quality of European governance and identity in the European Union's (EU)
- Evaluate and critically engage with arguments in the literature as well as during seminars

Course content

The aim of the course is to provide a deeper understanding of European integration and the democratic quality of European governance in the European Union's (EU) internal and external relations. Students will learn about the institutions and practices of the EU and gain an overview of, and ability to critically reflect upon (orally and in written form), current research on the relationship between European integration and democracy within the social sciences. After a general overview of EU-history and institutions, the course focuses on three themes, discussed from a democratic perspective: The democratic deficit debate, European identity and the EU as a global actor.

Over the last two decades European integration has become increasingly politicized. Where public opinion on the European Union (EU) was once marked by its permissive consensus, the attitudes of EU citizens now often appear as a constraining dissensus on integration. Despite changes within the institutions of the EU designed to enhance its representative legitimacy, and shifts in the way political parties interact with the EU, the organization still encounters criticisms of a 'democratic deficit'.

The theme on European identity covers the importance of diffuse political support – that is general and fundamental feelings of citizens towards belonging to the political community, exemplified by feelings of identity – for European integration, legitimacy and the quality of democracy under the European Union. The lectures interrogate to key challenges to European identity from this perspective: financial crises and migration.

The theme about European integration and voting behaviour in elections to the European parliament and national parliaments focuses on how different aspects of European integration can affect how citizens assert their democratic right to participate in elections.

Form of teaching

Teaching is conducted through lectures, written assignments, and active participation in mandatory seminars.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Students will be evaluated based on their individual performance on both written and oral assignments. The course consists of 7,5 credits and to get the credits the student must complete three compulsory theme seminars with active participation, where the students have to submit a written paper to each seminar (2.5 credits each, 7.5 in total).

Students can be asked to re-work graded assignments and re-submit them. If the student does not re-submit the reworked assignment on time, the student will be failed on the assignment. A student who is not able to attend a compulsory part of the course can do an alternative assignment. The assignment will be described in the course guide.

A student who has taken two exams in a course or part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner. The student needs to contact the department for a new examiner, preferably in writing, and this should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

At least five occasions shall be offered the students to pass a course or part of a course (Chapter 6, Section 21 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years, after the course has ceased/been changed.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

To receive the grade Pass on the course, a student must have earned a passing grade on all three course assignments (seminars and paper submission).

To receive the grade Pass with Distinction on the course, a student must have received the grade Pass with Distinction on at least two of the three assignments, and the grade Pass on the third assignment.

To obtain the Pass grade the student must fulfill all the learning outcomes. To obtain Pass with Distinction, the work of the student should show a very good ability to connect theoretical analyses to practical outcomes, a good, independent analytical ability and that the written assignment fulfill high academic standards in terms of structure and language.

Course evaluation

The student will be given the opportunity to do a course evaluation. The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.

Additional information

Students are recommended to have 60 hec in Social Sciences.