



## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

### **EU1141 Democracy and the European Union, 7.5 credits**

Demokrati och Europeiska Unionen, 7,5 högskolepoäng

*First Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Political Science on 2013-02-07 and was last revised on 2020-09-11 to be valid from 2021-02-15, spring semester of 2021.

*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

- Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of European identity in relation to democracy
- Describe how the EU acts in its external relations, particularly in relation to the promotion of 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) internal and external relations
- 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 on the EU as a global actor provides an overview of the range of EU policies in its external relations and discusses how the European Union acts in global politics, in particular when it comes to the promotion of democracy.

### **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 all the following assignments:

- 1) three papers (2.5 credits each, 7.5 in total),
- 2) active participation in seminars

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).

The grading scale comprises Fail (U), Pass (G), Pass with Distinction (VG) regarding the papers and Fail (U) and Pass (G) regarding active participation in seminars.

The entire course is worth 7,5 credits and it is examined through:

- 1) three papers (2.5 credits each, 7.5 in total),
- 2) active participation in seminars.

Students must pass all elements in order to pass the course. To earn a “high pass” (pass with distinction) for the entire course, students must receive a high pass paper grade on at least two of the three papers, and at least pass on the third paper and pass on the active participation in the seminars. To earn a “pass” for the entire course, a student must receive a “pass” grade for all papers and on the active participation in the seminars.

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.