



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

SF2222 Citizens, Politicians and the Media: Evaluating Democratic Processes, 15 credits

Citizens, Politicians and the Media: Evaluating Democratic Processes, 15

högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2008-06-16 and was last revised on 2023-11-09 by Department of Political Science to be valid from 2024-01-15, spring semester of 2024.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Political Science

Other participating department

Department of Journalism, Media and Communication

Position in the educational system

The course is an in-depth course in Political Science. The course is an elective course in the Master's Programme in Political Science and in the Master's Programme in European studies and compulsory in the Master's Programme in Political Communication. The course is also offered as a single subject course.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Master's Programme in Political Science (S2PSC), 2) Master's Programme in European Studies (S2EUS) and 3) Master's program in political communication (S2MKV)

Main field of studies

Political Science

Specialization

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires the successful completion of a minimum of 15 credits

from courses in the second cycle in Political Science or 15 credits from courses in the second cycle in Media and Communication Studies or 15 credits from courses in the second cycle in European Studies, or equivalent knowledge. Applicants must prove their knowledge of English: English 6/English B.

Learning outcomes

A student who has passed the course will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Describe what characterizes three central actors of democracy; citizens, politicians and the media as well as the relationship between these three actors under different political circumstances.

Competence and skills

Analyze advanced empirical research results in reference to common democratic norms.

Formulate and communicate how research on the role of citizen, politicians and the media is relevant for evaluations of real-life democratic processes.

Independently produce text in accordance with good academic practice, including proper citation technique and use of references.

Judgement and approach

Critically assess research on voting behaviour, public opinion, political psychology, political participation, political representation, as well as the importance of media to representative democracy.

Critically discuss the role of citizens, politicians and the media in democratic societies based on advanced research.

Course content

A major goal of democracy is to realize “the will of the people.” But how should this be achieved? How is it achieved in reality? To find out, this course focuses on three groups of actors: citizens, politicians, and the media. We consider research on voting behaviour, political psychology, political participation, and political representation. Moreover, we examine theories and empirical research on political communication, journalism and media. What does this research tell us about these actors and how they interact under different circumstances? How do these actors, and the relations between them, fulfill requirements imposed by different models of democracy? What does research reveal about how various democratic values can be realized?

Form of teaching

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and supervision.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Learning outcomes are examined via: (1) a written exam, (2) a written essay, which is also presented and defended in an oral presentation, (3) participation and presentations in supervision and discussion seminar during the writing of the essay.

A student who is not able to attend a compulsory seminar of the course can do an alternative assignment. The assignment will be described in the course guide.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

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 cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given. This may not be in conflict with Chapter 6 Section 21 of Higher Education Ordinance.

Grades

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

In order to pass the course (grade G), the student needs at least G on the written exam and the essay as well as complete the plagiarism quiz on Canvas and show active participation in the supervision and discussion seminar.

In order to pass the course with distinction (grade VG) in addition, the student needs VG on either the written exam or the essay.

Course evaluation

A written, anonymous course evaluation will be distributed to the students at the end of the course. The results of the evaluation will be communicated both to previous and incoming students.