



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

SK2222 Varieties of Democracy and Democratization, 15 credits

Varianter på demokrati och demokratisering, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Political Science on 2014-06-19 and was last revised on 2019-01-25 to be valid from 2019-03-27, spring semester of 2019.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Political Science

Position in the educational system

The course is an elective course in the Master's Programme in Political Science, Master's Programme in European Studies and Master's Programme in International Administration and Global Governance. The course is also offered as a single subject course. The course is an in-depth course in Political Science in the second cycle.

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), 3) Master's Programme in Political Science (S2STV) and 4) Master's Programme in International Administration and Global Governance (S2IAG)

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 15 credits at the second cycle from the course SK2121 'Political Science Analysis' or a minimum of 15 credits from courses the first semester in the Master's Programme in European Studies or Master's Programme in International Administration and Global Governance. Applicants must prove their knowledge of English: English 6/English B from Swedish Upper Secondary School or the equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS.

Learning outcomes

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

- demonstrate in-depth knowledge about different democratic theories and approaches to measurement of democracy; and theories of democratization.
- independently compare and critically assess difference found in various conceptions of democracy, and how these can and should be measured and be able to demonstrate this understanding orally as well as in writing;
- independently use and adapt existing theories to analyze cases of various forms of rule, democratization, and autocratization, as well as assess existing empirical work in this area;
- independently plan and within a given time frame conduct a small-scale research project in the area of democracy and democratization, and to use appropriate methods in the analysis; and
- independently produce text in accordance with good academic practice, including proper citation technique and use of references.

Course content

This course starts with theories of what democracy is and ought to be, and confronts these theories with different approaches to measuring varieties of democracy across time and space. Students are exposed to a range of theories of democratization, or failure of various forms of democracy, and they are trained in how to systematically analyze and evaluate such theories.

The course thus addresses the two interlinked topics of conceptualizing and measuring democracy; and the explaining of democratization. It approaches these topics in a theoretically guided manner and with an emphasis on methodological challenges. It makes extensive use of both qualitative and quantitative data, including the new Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) database co-produced by University of Gothenburg and University of Notre Dame.

Form of teaching

The course lasts 10 weeks and consists of four parts that partially overlap in time:

1. Lectures and seminars on the conceptualization and measurement of democracy
2. Lectures and seminars to explain democratization and autocratization
3. The student's five assignments and seminars
4. The student's final course paper

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The students write five assignments. Four of these are on comparing two countries within the themes of the literature: measuring different democracy concepts, as well as explanatory theories on democratization and the absence of democracy. One paper focuses on concept formation. All six weekly papers together are 6 credits.

These papers are used actively as the base for the weekly seminars. Attendance at the seminars is obligatory. The students are expected to participate actively in the theme of the seminars, with discussions and critical review of the literature as well as the other students' papers. In case of absence from a seminar the student has to do a complementary assignment, following instructions from the teacher. Seminar participation is 3 credits.

The students also write a final course paper in which previous countries-cases can be used, but must be supplemented with either additional case studies or with a statistical analysis. The final course paper is 6 credits.

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.

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).

To obtain the Pass grade for the course as a whole, students must achieve at least a Pass grade for four of the five assignments, Pass on the seminars and a Pass for the final course paper.

In order to get the grade **Pass with Distinction**, students must achieve **Pass with Distinction** on at least two of the five assignments, **Pass** on the seminars and also receive **Pass with Distinction** grade on the final course paper.

Pass with Distinction, requires the work of the student should demonstrate a very good knowledge on the main themes covered by the course, and also demonstrate very good skills to connect theory and data through independent analyses and to fulfill high academic standards in terms of structure and language, as well as demonstrate the ability to undertake the task within a predetermined time frame.

Course evaluation

The students will be given the opportunity evaluate the course.

A summary of the course evaluation and reflections made by the course coordinator must be made available to the students within a reasonable period of time following completion of the course. The summary and any adjustments made in response to the evaluation shall be presented the next time the course is offered.