Democràcia i Ciutadania 2014/2015

Code: 42270
ECTS Credits: 10

Contact
Name: John Robert Etherington
Email: John.Etherington@uab.cat

Use of languages
Principal working language: anglès (eng)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Teachers
Joan Botella Corral
Eva Ostergaard-Nielsen
Camilo Cristancho Mantilla
Margarita Leon

Prerequisites
Students are required to have prior training corresponding to a bachelor in political science or other closely related subject.

Objectives and Contextualisation
The objective of this module is to discuss the principle contemporary debates in the field of democratic theory, and will address the following: the conditions facilitating the development and stability of democracies; the role of political parties in democratic systems; democracy and social citizenship; and the challenges faced by contemporary democracies, including transnationalism and citizen participation in decision-making processes.

Skills
- Analyse the behaviour and political attitudes of the public and the political communication processes in which they are immersed.
- Analyse the main economic, social and political challenges facing contemporary democracies.
- Applied theoretical knowledge acquired from the analysis of real situation and using political analysis generate useful orientations for decision-making.
- Demonstration reading comprehension for specialist texts in English.
- Design and write projects and technical and academic reports autonomously using the appropriate terminology, arguments and analytical tools in each case.
- Possess and understand knowledge that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in the development and/or application of ideas, often in a research context.
- Recognise the complexity of politics today, its diversity and the tensions to which it is exposed, with special emphasis on the Spanish and European contexts.
• Student should possess the learning skills that enable them to continue studying in a way that is largely student led or independent
• Students should be able to integrate knowledge and face the complexity of making judgements based on information that may be incomplete or limited and includes reflections on the social and ethical responsibilities associated with the application of their knowledge and judgements
• Understand the design, operation and consequences of the political institutions and their relation to processes of governance.

Learning outcomes

1. Analyse the level of democratic quality in a political system.
2. Analyse the way in which advanced democracies changeover time.
3. Demonstration reading comprehension for specialist texts in English.
4. Describe the characteristics of political culture and identify their explanations and consequences.
5. Design and write projects and technical and academic reports autonomously using the appropriate terminology, arguments and analytical tools in each case.
6. Identify the way in which current phenomena such as globalisation, cultural diversity and the development of new technology affect democratic systems.
7. Identify the debates on public opinion, political communication and democracy.
8. Identify the different dimensions of the concept of democracy, its contradictions and the debates accompanying them.
9. Identify the different factors and variables that may be involved in the appearance, stability and crisis of a democratic system
10. Identify the different practical implications of the theories of democracy.
11. Identify the importance of specific political, economic and institutional contexts for democratic stability.
12. Identify the modes of political participation, the factors that explain them and their consequences for democracy.
13. Possess and understand knowledge that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in the development and/or application of ideas, often in a research context.
14. Student should possess the learning skills that enable them to continue studying in a way that is largely student led or independent
15. Students should be able to integrate knowledge and face the complexity of making judgements based on information that may be incomplete or limited and includes reflections on the social and ethical responsibilities associated with the application of their knowledge and judgements.
16. Understand the different conceptions of the concept of citizenship and their implications.
17. Understand the different existing models of democracy, their institutional characteristics and their implications.
18. Understand the tensions between participation and representation, the debates on political disenchantment and the crisis of representation.

Content

Democracy and Citizenship

Introduction (one session)

Part I: The Social Conditions Necessary for the Emergence and Maintenance of Democratic Citizenship (John Etherington) (six sessions)

Part 2: The Role of Political Parties in Democratic Systems (Joan Botella) (six sessions)

Part 3: Theories and Notions of Social Citizenship (Margarita Leon) (four sessions)
**Part 4: Migration and Citizenship - cross border electoral processes (Eva Ostergaard-Nielsen) (two sessions)**

**Part 5: Citizenship and Digital Media (Camilo Cristancho) (four sessions)**

**Methodology**

This course emphasizes active student participation in class, tutorials, continuous evaluation through the elaboration and evaluation of assignments related to the different dimensions of the module, as well as a final exam.

**Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>Learning outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type: Directed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures and seminars</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td>1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type: Supervised</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3, 13, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type: Autonomous</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation of assigned readings</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation of course assignments</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>5, 13, 14, 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Evaluation**

In this module, the main emphasis is on continuous assessment in order to ensure that the different dimensions and concepts related to the sessions are taken on board by students as we progress through the module. This is complemented by a final take home exam. The evaluation is therefore divided into the following elements:

Participation: Students are expected to have prepared the assigned readings before coming to class and to take an active part in the sessions. It is obligatory to assist a minimum of 80% of the sessions in order to pass this module.

Papers (60%): During the term students will write 4 short essays (max 1200 words each): one for Part One, one for Part 2, one for Part 3 and one for either Part 4 or 5. The dates for handing in the essays will be published before the beginning of the course.

Exam (40%): There will be a take-home exam at the end of the course, with questions on each part of the module. Students will have approximately one week to answer one of these questions in an essay of not more that 2500 words. The provisional dates are 19th - 23rd of January 2015.

**Evaluation activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>Learning outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuous evaluation</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3, 5, 13, 14, 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bibliography

- Reiter, H.L. 'The Study of Political Parties, 1906-2005: The View from the Journals', American Political Science Review, Vol. 100, No. 4: 613-618
- Huber, Rueschemeyer and Stephens 1997 "The paradoxes of contemporary democracy: formal, participatory and social dimensions". Comparative Politics vol. 29, n. 3 (available at JSTOR)
- The Heckman Equation: www.heckmanequation.org


• Anduiza, Eva; Camilo Cristancho, Jose M. Sabucedo (2014) Mobilization through online social networks: the political protest of the indignados in Spain, Information Communication & Society Volume 17, Issue 6, pp. 750-764


• Sanne Kruikemeier, Guda van Noort, Rens Vliegenthart Claes H de Vreese (2013) Unraveling the effects of active and passive forms of political Internet use: Does it affect citizens’ political involvement? New Media & Society