

Democracy and Citizenship

2015/2016

Code: 42270
ECTS Credits: 10

| Degree | Type | Year | Semester |
|---------------------------|------|------|----------|
| 4313335 Political Science | OB | 0 | 1 |

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)

Teachers

Joan Botella Corral
Camilo Cristancho Mantilla

External teachers

Dani Marinova

Prerequisites

Students are required to have prior training corresponding to a bachelor in Political Science or other closely related subject.

For students new to Political Science, the following texts provide good background for some of themes that will be dealt with in this module:

Macpherson, C.W. (various editions) *The Life and Times of Liberal Democracy*. Oxford. OUP

Held, D. (various editions) *Models of Democracy*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Crick, B. (various editions) *In Defence of Politics*.

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, such as changing labour markets and class structures, citizen participation in decision-making processes in the digital era.

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

Introduction (one session)

Part 1: 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) (five sessions)

Part 3: Labour Market Trends and Political Participation (Dani Marinova) (three sessions)

Part 4: Citizenship and Digital Media (Camilo Cristancho) (five 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

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

Evaluation

The evaluation is 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 1, one for Part 2, one for Part 3i), and one for Part 3ii). The dates for handing in the essays are the following:

Paper 1: 4th November

Paper 2: 23rd November

Paper 3: 2nd December

Paper 4: 11th January 2016.

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 to answer one of these questions in an essay of not more than 2500 words. The questions will be published on 15th of January and answers must be handed in by 22nd of January 2016.

Feedback: Comments on work will be available three weeks at the latest after submission. Please do not hesitate to contact the professors for this feedback.

Submission: Please hand in all work on paper at the Suport Logístic.

As noted in the General Programme, we are committed to avoiding plagiarism, and as such every effort is made to detect and punish such cases.

Evaluation activities

| Title | Weighting | Hours | ECTS | Learning outcomes |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------|------|-------------------|
| Continuous evaluation | 60% | 0 | 0 | 3, 5, 13, 14, 15 |
| Exam | 40% | 2.5 | 0.1 | 3, 5, 13, 14, 15 |

Bibliography

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