

Democracy and Citizenship

Code: 42270
ECTS Credits: 10

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Political Science	OB	0

Contact

Name: John Robert Etherington

Email: john.etherington@uab.cat

Teachers

John Robert Etherington

Eva Kristine Ostergaard-Nielsen

Eva Anduiza Perea

Jason Edward Hickel

Daniel Edmiston

Alina Vraneanu

Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

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:

- Held, D. (various editions) *Models of Democracy*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Diamond L. & M. F. Plattner, eds., (2009), *Democracy. A Reader*, Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Dahl, R.A., Shapiro, I., Cheibub J.A. (2003), eds., *The Democracy Sourcebook*, Cambridge, Massachusetts, London, England: The MIT Press. Available [here](#).

Objectives and Contextualisation

In many ways, political science can trace its origins back to the attempts by thinkers such as Plato and Aristotle to come to terms with the concepts of democracy and citizenship as they emerged in the Ancient Greek poleis, particularly that of Athens.

While modern liberal democracy functions in quite a different way from its ancient predecessor, the normative, theoretical and empirical preoccupations of the Ancients have continued to inform modern debates on democracy and citizenship, concerned as they are with questions such as regime change, political participation, citizen rights, and institutional arrangements. In addition, other questions, such as the increasing democratic demands of citizens, have become central to debates surrounding the functioning of liberal democratic systems.

The purpose of this module, then, is to present some of the main debates and approaches to understanding liberal democracy and citizenship as these have developed over time, and to this end the module is divided into four main parts. After three introductory sessions that deal with questions relating to democracy and democratization in theory and in practice, part one analyses the meaning of citizenship in today's democracies, and in particular citizen participation in the face of current social and economic challenges to modern welfare states; part two discusses the relationship between migration, democracy and citizenship; part three analyses gender politics in democratic settings; and the final part explores the interrelationship between the climate crisis and democratic systems.

At the end of the module, students are expected to be able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of a wide range of theoretical, methodological and empirical approaches to the study of themes related to the concepts democracy and citizenship.

Competences

- 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 situations 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 change over 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. Democracy and Citizenship: questions new and old (J. Etherington) (3 Sessions)

Part 1. Citizenship, Inequality and Globalisation. D. Edmiston (4 sessions)

Part 2. Migrations and Democracy. (E. Ostergaard-Nielsen and A. Vraneanu) (5 Sessions)

Part 3. Gender Politics (E. Anduiza) (4 sessions)

Part 4. Climate Change and Democracy (J. Hickel and J. Etherington) (7 sessions)

Activities and Methodology

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

Preparation of course assignments	34.5	1.38	5, 15, 14, 13
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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.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Final Essay	40%	2	0.08	1, 2, 17, 18, 3, 4, 5, 16, 7, 9, 11, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 14, 13
In-class assignments	40%	0.4	0.02	1, 2, 17, 18, 3, 4, 5, 16, 7, 9, 11, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 14, 13
In-class participation	20%	0.1	0	1, 15, 14, 13

The evaluation is divided into the following elements:

Attendance and active participation (20% of the overall grade): Students are expected to have prepared the assigned readings before coming to class and to take an active part in the sessions. It is compulsory to attend to a minimum of 80% of the sessions in order to pass this module.

In-class assignments (40%): These will be specified by each instructor for their respective sessions, and can take the form of group presentations and exercises, quizzes on assigned readings, small projects etc.

Final paper (40%): At the end of the course the instructors will post a set of research questions related to each part of the module. Students will have to answer one of these questions in an essay of not more than 2500 words. Students will be asked to defend their essay before the relevant professor. The final paper will be graded using the following criteria:

- Capacity to synthesize the relevant literature
- Capacity to critically evaluate the relevant literature
- Coherence of the argument
- Originality
- Formal aspects, with special reference to correct citation and academic style

Use of AI/LLM: For this subject, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted exclusively in support tasks, such as bibliographic or information searches, text correction or translations, generating outlines or preliminary summaries, provided that they are reworked by students. Students must clearly identify which parts have been generated with this technology, specify the tools used and include a critical reflection on how these have influenced the process and the final result of the activity. The lack of transparency of the use of AI in this assessable activity will be considered a lack of academic honesty and may lead to a partial or total penalty in the grade of the activity, or greater sanctions in serious cases.

Plagiarism: As noted in the Students Guide, we are committed to avoiding plagiarism, and as such every effort is made to detect and punish such cases. Anti-plagiarism software will be used to check every submission.

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 submit your short essays and final essay through the Campus Virtual tasks section, where all graded submissions will be analyzed by the anti-plagiarism software.

Grading: All submissions will be graded with a numeric grade ranging from 0 to 10, being 10 the best grade.

Late submissions policy: A -1 point grade penalty will be applied for each day that a student is late with a graded submission.

Criteria for the "Not Assessable" grade: In accordance with point 9 of article 266 of the UAB Academic Regulations, a student will be classified as "Not Assessable" when they have not provided sufficient evidence of learning to allow for a guaranteed assessment. Within the framework of this module, it will be considered that there is insufficient evidence of assessment when the student has not submitted any continuous assessment activity or taken any test or exam.

Bibliography

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Software

None

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(TEm) Theory (master)	1	English	first semester	afternoon