

**SYLLABUS**

# **Democracy, Development and Democratization 7.5 credits S0031N**

**Demokrati, utveckling och demokratisering**

**Course syllabus admitted: Autumn 2023 Sp 1 - Present**

**DECISION DATE  
2023-02-15**

# Democracy, Development and Democratization 7.5 credits S0031N

## Demokrati, utveckling och demokratisering

### First cycle, S0031N

Education level	Grade scale	Subject	Subject group (SCB)
First cycle	U G VG *	Statsvetenskap	Political Science

### Main field of study

Political Science

## Entry requirements

In order to meet the general entry requirements for first cycle studies you must have successfully completed upper secondary education and documented skills in English language and completed the courses Political Science A, Political Theory (S0005N) 7,5 credits and Political Science A, Comparative Politics (S0007N) 7,5 credits with at least a passing grade, or equivalent.

## Selection

The selection is based on 1-165 credits.

## Course Aim

Issues on democracy and democratization are high on the agenda of academics as well as politicians, activists and citizens. Although many different variants of democratic decision-making have been proposed over the years, its representative form; the process through which the people choose their political leaders through free and transparent elections, is still one of the most influential political innovations of modern times. So influential is democracy that it not only has come to signify a form of rule, but a goal in itself. Some scientists even claim that the success of democracy represents the "end of history", since no other institutional arrangement can compete with it, philosophically or ethically. This course examines the concepts of democracy and democratization, their meaning and importance both for researchers and practitioners.

After the course students shall be able to:

- Describe and discuss the multifaceted concept of democracy, both from theoretical and empirical viewpoints.
- Describe and discuss the political principles (and differing interpretations thereof) that are and have been central in shaping the modern state.
- Describe, explain and compare different explanatory models' bearing on the process of democratization, and various factors affecting the democratization process.
- Discuss and analyze the development of the welfare state and its institutional prerequisites.
- Critically discuss the concept of social capital, and analyze its impact on the functioning of democracy.
- Apply the above knowledge to critically analyze the political development process.
- Read and understand scientific papers and apply the content in both oral and written form.

## Contents

The purpose of this course in political theory and comparative politics is to discuss the extent to which theories in political science can be used to understand and explain contemporary political problems related to democracy, democratization and the post-democratic society.

During the course the following areas are addressed:

- Democracy theory - from a historical as well as a contemporary perspective.
- Different interpretations of the concept of democracy and the democratic process.
- Democracy versus dictatorship.
- Attempts to measure democracy and democratization.
- Democratization processes from a theoretical perspective, including:
  - o The development of democracy in the world - the waves of democratization.
  - o The importance for democratization and democratic consolidation of factors such as economic development, modernization, political culture, citizens, institutions and political elites.
  - o Post-democratic development of the welfare state and welfare state institutions.
  - o Social capital, trust and their impact in the functioning of democracy.

## Realization

Each course occasion's language and form is stated and appear on the course page on Luleå University of Technology's website.

Teaching consists of lectures, seminars and exercises, individually and in groups. The aim of the lectures is to introduce students to the key themes of the course and to offer examples of their empirical application.

The seminars and exercises are aimed at deepening the understanding of and ability to critically evaluate key theories and concepts, as well as to apply this knowledge to the study of democracy and democratization. Active participation at seminars is compulsory.

## Examination

If there is a decision on special educational support, in accordance with the Guideline Student's rights and obligations at Luleå University of Technology, an adapted or alternative form of examination can be provided. In-class examination (4.5 credits), that examines the student's ability to describe and discuss the multifaceted concept of democracy, both from a theoretical and an empirical point-of-view, to present and discuss the political principles (and differing interpretations thereof) that is and has been central in shaping the modern state system of government; and to describe, explain and compare different explanatory models' bearing on, and various factors in the democratization process. Four seminars in writing as well as an oral presentation is equivalent to 3.0 credits. These examines the ability to discuss and analyze the development of the welfare state and the institutional conditions for this, and the ability to critically discuss the concept of social capital, and to analyze its impact on the functioning of democracy. All examinations examine the student's ability to read and understand scientific texts and use this knowledge to critically analyze the political development process in both oral and written form.

If the student does not achieve a passing grade on the written exam, he or she is given the opportunity to take a re-examination on the re-examination period. In cases where a seminar assignment, oral or written, does not reach a passing grade, the student is given a new opportunity to complete it in the near future during the course. If the assignment still does not reach the grade pass, the next possibility for submitting is the next time the course is given.

## Unauthorized aids during exams and assessments

If a student, by using unauthorized aids, tries to mislead during an exam or when a study performance is to be assessed, disciplinary measures may be taken. The term “unauthorized aids” refers to aids that the teacher has not previously specified as permissible aids and that may assist in solving the examination task. This means that all aids not specified as permissible are prohibited. The Swedish version has interpretative precedence in the event of a conflict.

## Remarks

Students must register for the courses themselves, or contact ETKS educational administration [eduetks@ltu.se](mailto:eduetks@ltu.se) not later than three days after the quarter commences. Failure to do so can result in the place being lost. This rule also applies to students with a guaranteed place.

## Course offered by

Department of Social Sciences, Technology and Arts

## Modules

Code	Description	Grade scale	Cr	Status	From period	Title
0001	Written exam	U G VG *	4.5	Mandatory	A11	
0002	Compulsory assignments	U G#	3	Mandatory	A11	

## Study guidance

Study guidance for the course is to be found in our learning platform Canvas before the course starts. Students applying for single subject courses get more information in the Welcome letter. You will find the learning platform via My LTU.

## Last revised

by Director of Undergraduate Studies Daniel Örtqvist, Department of Business Administration, Technology and Social Sciences 2023-02-15

## Syllabus established

by Head of the Department of Business Administration and Social Sciences 2010-12-22