

SYLLABUS

Citizenship, Democracy and Legitimacy in Modern Societies 7.5 credits S7016N

Medborgarskap, demokrati och legitimitet i moderna samhällen

Course syllabus admitted: Spring 2022 Sp 3 - Present

**DECISION DATE
2021-11-04**

Citizenship, Democracy and Legitimacy in Modern Societies 7.5 credits S7016N

Medborgarskap, demokrati och legitimitet i moderna samhällen

Second cycle, S7016N

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

Main field of study

Political Science

Entry requirements

Bachelor's degree with a major in Political science, or equivalent.

Selection

The selection is based on 30-285 credits

Examiner

Carina Lundmark

Course Aim

Citizenship, democracy and legitimacy are central concepts in a large number of theories in political science, and provide a foundation for the establishment of societal organizations and political systems, as well as the formulation of political goals, decisions and control instruments. The overall purpose of this course is to illustrate and analyze the different theoretical approaches that surround these concepts, and explore their significance for the development of modern societies through policy in practice.

After completing the course, the course participant shall be able to:

- Describe, explain and discuss, orally as well as in writing, various approaches and basic assumptions related to the concepts of citizenship, democracy and legitimacy and their relevance to theory in political science
- Compare, discuss and analyze connections and contradictions between different theoretical approaches regarding these concepts
- Independently illustrate and analyze obstacles and opportunities in practical policy – related to the formulation of policy and control instruments, the establishment of large-scale political objectives and the long-term development of societies – through applications of the central concepts in the course
- Use different theories on democracy, citizenship and legitimacy to formulate, structure and approach one's own research issues
- Independently search for relevant knowledge, both in printed and Internet-based sources
- Independently relate to, critically review and apply this knowledge

Contents

Issues concerning the central values of citizenship, democracy and legitimacy form the core of political theory, but the concepts and their meaning also have a powerful impact on the design of political systems and political decisions in practice, not least regarding issues, opportunities and problems that are brought to the fore by the ever-increasing modernization and globalization in the world. The course mainly deals with various contemporary theories of democracy and proposed models for the organization of society and the process for democratic decision-making.

The course covers the following areas:

- How the concept of democracy can be defined and specified
- Different concepts and models of democracy, especially within the framework of liberal democratic theory, and their view of the balance between rights and obligations and between the individual and the collective
- How different theoretical approaches to democracy affect the perception and interpretation of citizenship, political organization and fundamental societal values
- The meaning of the concept of legitimacy and how it affects democratic theory and practice in terms of political decision-making and implementation
- Current debates on the importance of knowledge, participation and deliberation in political (democratic) decision-making
- How interpretations of citizenship, democracy and legitimacy have contributed to (and still contributes to) shaping practical policies, particularly in terms of solutions to large-scale collective problems
- How conflicts between fundamental values are handled, mitigated or avoided in the democratic policy process – and what outcomes and results these choices of strategies can lead to

Realization

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

Teaching is in the form of lectures and compulsory seminar exercises linked to the course literature. The aim of the lectures is to introduce the students to the central themes included in the course and give examples of how different concepts and theories have emerged and been interpreted. The aim of the seminar exercises is to practice applying different theoretical concepts to central political science issues, as well as to discuss and analyze societal phenomena from the theoretical perspectives dealt with during the course. Furthermore, the seminars aim to practice the assimilation of scientific articles and the application of their content; to teach and learn from each other; and to practice presentation techniques. Written submissions are included as a complement to the seminar discussions. Active participation at each seminar is a requirement.

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. The examination consists of three seminar assignments with accompanying written submission and oral presentation. The first two seminars correspond to 25% each of the final grade. The final seminar corresponds to 50% of the final grade.

The seminar exercises examine all the aims of the course: ability to account for different ways of interpreting the key concepts of democracy, citizenship and legitimacy, to compare and critically examine competing theoretical perspectives, to analyze democracy's ability to meet large-scale collective problems (e.g. environmental challenges), independently apply theoretical perspectives in political studies, to present conclusions and underlying arguments orally and in writing, to contribute constructively to seminar discussions and the ability to identify the need for additional knowledge within the subject area of the course.

Remarks

Students must register for the courses themselves or contact ETKS educational administration, eduetks@itu.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.

Overlap

The course S7016N is equal to S7013N

Due to similar content, the course cannot be included in a degree together with the courses S7013N Democracy and sustainability; S7005N; IES362; or IES366, or other courses with similar content.

Literature. Valid from Spring 2022 Sp 3

Reference literature:

Bernstein, S. 2011. Legitimacy in intergovernmental and non-state global governance. *Review of International Political Economy*, 18(1): 17-51.

Feeny, D., et al. 1990 The Tragedy of the Commons: Twenty-two Years Later, *Human Ecology*, 18 (1): 1-17.

Hardin, G. 1968. The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science*, 162: 1243-48.

Jagers, S., Martinsson, J. & Matti, S. 2014. Ecological citizenship: a driver of pro- environmental behaviour? *Environmental Politics*, 23(3): 434-453.

Jagers, S. & Matti, S. 2020. Miljöpolitikens villkor. Studentlitteratur: Lund

Linde, S. 2018. Communication and Cooperation. A Study of the Relationship Between Political Communication and Large-scale Collective Action. Doktorsavhandling, Lulea: Lulea tekniska universitet,

Matti, S. 2006. The Imagined Environmental Citizen. Exploring the State – Individual Relationship in Swedish Environmental Policy (kap. 3). Licentiatuppsats, Lulea: Lulea tekniska universitet.

Matti, S. 2009. Exploring Public Policy Legitimacy. A Study of Belief-System Correspondence in Swedish Environmental Policy (kap 2.) Doktorsavhandling, Lulea: Lulea tekniska universitet.

Naess, A. 1983. The Shallow and the Deep, Long-Range Ecology Movement: A Summary. *Inquiry*, 16, 95-100.

Nilsson, J. 2015. Local Political Decision-Making: A Case of Rationality or Appropriateness? *Local Government Studies*, 41(6): 917-936.

Ostrom, E. 2000. Collective action and the evolution of social norms. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*: 137-158.

Stern, P.C. 2000. Towards a coherent theory of environmentally significant behavior. *Journal of Social Issues*. 56: 407-424.

Van Lange, P. A. M., et al. 2013. The psychology of social dilemmas: A review. *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, 120(2): 125-141

O"dalen, J. 2011. Efter floden: Klimatmigration och den rika va"rldens skyldigheter. *Statsvetenskaplig tidskrift*, 111 (1): 140-147.

Course offered by

Department of Social Sciences, Technology and Arts

Modules

Code	Description	Grade scale	Cr	Status	From period	Title
0001	Seminars, written and oral presentation	U G VG *	7.5	Mandatory	A10	

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 Social Sciences, Technology and Arts 2021-11-04

Syllabus established

by Head of the Department of Business Administration and Social Sciences 2010-02-19