

Democracy, legitimacy and political institutions, 7,5 HE credits

Demokrati, legitimitet och politiska institutioner, 7,5 hp

Established: 2019-07-04

Established by: School of Business, Economics and IT

Applies from: V20

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding:

- Differences in the formation of various political systems and their institutions
- The fundamentals of the comparative method and its use within political science
- How different theoretical approaches within political science account for both the development of political systems and political reform.
- Key concepts in theories of democracy and within research about political systems and the quality of political institutions

Skills and application:

- Key theories, approaches and terms central to comparative politics in order to analyze different political systems, with emphasis being placed on theories of democracy and the quality of political institutions.
- The ability to discuss various theoretical approaches to political systems and how politics unfolds within those systems.

Ethical appreciation:

- of a comparative approach to the study of politics
- The ability to evaluate and present arguments as to the relative strengths and weaknesses of various political systems, in relation to different views on what constitutes good government.

Entry requirements

General entry requirements

You also need: Civics 1b alternatively 1a1+1a2.

or

English B, Civics A.

(Field-specific entry requirements 4 / A4)

The forms of assessment of student performance

The course is examined by seminar performances, a final in-class exam and a final take-away exam.

Course contents

The main focus of this course is formal institutions of democratic regimes in a comparative perspective. Different institutional solutions regarding e.g., the design of the electoral system, the organisation of the legislature or the constitutional status are discussed. The course introduces elements of the comparative method, which will help us adjudicate between different institutional designs. While the bulk of the course centres around democratic systems, we will also discuss authoritarian systems to some extent.

Other regulations

Course grading: F/Fx/E/D/C/B/A - Insufficient, Insufficient- more work required before the credit can be awarded, Sufficient, Satisfactory, Good, Very Good, Excellent

Course language: The teaching is conducted in English.

A student who does not fully meet the learning outcomes of a non-supervised examination (hemtentamen), but is close to the grade “pass” can, after a decision by the examiner, be allowed to complement (kan skriva supplement eller revise också) an examination assignment in order to reach the criteria for pass. For supervised examination (salstentamen) complementing is not allowed. Complementing of an examination must be individually adapted based on the learning outcomes or objectives that were not achieved by a student. It must take place within two weeks after informing the student of the examination result and before the next examination opportunity.

General rules pertaining to examination at University West are available at www.hv.se.

If the student has a decision/recommendation on special support due to disability, the examiner has the right to examine the student in a customized examination form.

Cycle

First cycle

Progressive specialization

G1N - first cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Main field of study

Political Science