



## Sustainable Democracy (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: PHILOSOPHY

Course ID: 0304

### Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. Students taking part in the course as a part of their Bachelor's degree program must have completed Course A, Introduction in Philosophy and Theology (30 ECTS credits). Students taking part in the course as a freestanding course are expected to have corresponding prior knowledge.

### Educational goals

After having completed the course the student is expected to be able to:

- Account for basic concepts in democratic theory
- Compare different normative models of democracy
- Understand contemporary challenges for democracy with regard to environmental and minority concerns
- Apply and discuss different democratic models in relation to environmental and minority concerns
- Author an essay on a question that regards democracy in relation to environmental and minority concerns

### Course contents

Democracy means rule by the people and a central trait of democracies is majoritarian decision making. May a minority, nonetheless, be allowed to prevent the majority's will? Should long-term interests sometimes overrun the will of the people? This course puts a normative lens on the challenges that democracies face, with regard to respecting ethnic minorities as well as securing a sustainable environment. The course is divided in three parts. The first part introduces democratic concepts and different normative models of democracy. The second part treats minority concerns as a challenge for democratic systems. Principles alternative to majority rule, based e.g. on the idea of human rights, are discussed. The third part of the course treats the challenge to safe-guard the environment in a democracy. Students discuss different ways to handle environmental issues, such as introducing new rights, setting up new institutions or civic engagement.

**Teaching and examination**

The course is taught in English. The examination consists in seminars and a written exam at the end of the course. The final paper may be written in English or Swedish.

**Bibliography**

Dahl, Robert A., *On Democracy*, Yale University Press, 2015 (2nd revised edition, 272 pages).

Miller, James, *Can Democracy Work*, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2018 (288 pages).

Additional texts will be available electronically at the start of the course.

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General Rules)

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Valid as 2019-03-15