



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