

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Social Sciences and Humanities

Programme: Political Science
American Studies
International History
International Relations

FHEQ Level: 5

Course Title: Democracy and its Enemies

Course Code: PLT 5102

Total Hours: 120

Timetabled Hours: 45

Guided Learning Hours: 0

Independent Learning Hours: 75

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course Description:

This course analyses the rise of democracy as an idea and as a practice using both theoretical and historical approaches, and processes of democratization in both theoretical and empirical terms. The course aims to provide an introduction to the central models of democracy (namely classical democracy, republicanism, liberal democracy, deliberative democracy and cosmopolitan democracy). Students are then enabled to analyse problems associated with the practice of liberal democracy, namely political engagement, the advent of post-democracy and the rise of populism. Finally, the course examines the practices of democracy and experiences with democratization in Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

Pre-requisites:

GEP 4180 Research and Writing 2

Aims and Objectives:

- To provide students with a systematic and critical understanding of competing ideas and practices concerning democracy, democratization and democratic consolidation in the different regions of the world
- To provide students with the analytical and theoretical tools to critically engage with the themes of populism, political disengagement, and the relationship of liberal democracy with capitalism
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organisations, business, and the media) which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of democracy, democratization and democratic process
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21st century
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

Political Science: A5(i); A5(ii); B5(i); C5(ii); C5(iii); D5(i); D5(ii)

International Relations: A5(i), A5(ii), B5(i), C5(ii), C5(iii), D5(i), D5(ii)

International History: A5(i), B5(iii), C5(ii), C5(iii), D5(i), D5(ii)

American Studies: A5(i), B5(i), C5(ii), C5(iii), D5(i), D5(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the major models of democracy and the main criticisms of these
- Demonstrates critical engagement with the literature pertaining to democratization theories and processes
- Demonstrate a critical and theoretical engagement with contemporary challenges to liberal democracy and processes of democratization
- Completes assigned work with a degree of autonomy, clarity, technical competence, capacity for self-evaluation and critical thinking appropriate for a 5000-level course
- Demonstrates a range of well-developed skills that are relevant to the workplace including the ability to plan and manage for changing contexts, audiences and levels of complexity

Indicative Content:

- Models of democracy (including classical, republican, liberal and deliberative)
- Problems and issues in contemporary liberal democracy (including declining traditional and rising non-traditional forms of political participation)
- Comparative democratic practices
- Contemporary challenges to democracy (i.e., globalization, capitalism, nationalist and religious movements)
- The rise of anti-system politics and democratic backsliding
- Theories of democratization
- Comparative democratization and democratic reversals

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

Lectures provide a framework for the course and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate understand the broad dimensions of core problems, and are aware of relevant literature in the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented with assigned readings; together, the readings and the lectures are designed to provide guidance for seminar discussion.

Seminar classes are based on the principle of active and student-directed learning, and are designed to be Safe, Enjoyable, Managed, Inclusive, Necessary, Academic, Respectful & Stimulating. The seminars provide an opportunity for discussion of contentious issues, addressing questions and exploring academic debates in more depth, group, and sub-group discussion. They are encouraged to share their opinions freely but must also maintain respect for the opinions of others. It is expected that students will participate regularly in discussions in a creative, competent, and critical way, as the formulation of their own thoughts and clarification of their assumptions, often in contradiction to other students' thoughts and assumptions, form a crucial part of the learning process. Students are expected to come to seminar classes prepared.

Indicative Texts:

Hopkin, J. (2020) *Anti-System Politics: The Crisis of Market Liberalism in Rich Democracies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Berman, S. (2019) *Democracy and Dictatorship in Europe: From the Ancient Regime to the Present Day*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Levitsky, S. and D. Ziblatt (2018) *How Democracies Die: What History Reveals About Our Future*. London: Penguin Press.

Grugel, J. and M.L. Bishop (2014) *Democratization: A Critical Introduction*. 2nd ed. Palgrave Macmillan.

Held, D. (2006) *Models of Democracy*. 3rd ed. Cambridge: Polity Press.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	