



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Political Science

## Syllabus

### Democracy - theories, practices and dilemmas

<b>Course Code:</b>	SVAM10
<b>Course Title:</b>	Democracy - theories, practices and dilemmas <i>Demokrati - teorier, praktiker och dilemman</i>
<b>Credits:</b>	7.5
<b>Degree Level:</b>	Master's level
<b>Progressive Specialisation:</b>	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

**Major Field of Study:**  
SKA (Political Science)

#### Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2021-02-24, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2021 at Karlstad University.

#### Prerequisites

90 ECTS credits completed in a social science subject, including at least 30 ECTS credits at the G2F level or higher, including a degree project worth 15 ECTS credits, and upper secondary level Swedish 3/B, Swedish as a Second Language 3/B, and English 6/A, or equivalent

#### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. identify and give an account of central aspects and concepts related to different traditions of democracy theory,
2. problematise the relation between democracy as theory and democracy in practice, and
3. give an account of and reflect critically upon current democratic dilemmas in terms of various theoretical perspectives on democracy.

**Content**

The course introduces and problematises different theoretical views on democracy based on Robert Dahl's seminal work *On Democracy*, which informs discussions of key dilemmas for democratic governments in terms of content, procedures, and practices. Central aspects treated in the course are views of demos and the citizen, and the relation between democracy, politics, and governance regarding democratic dilemmas such as automatisisation and digitalisation, globalisation and climate change. Towards the end of the course, theoretical arguments about democracy are related to current democratic challenges and dilemmas. The students select a contemporary case of democracy under threat, for example in relation to "fake news" and other forms of manipulation.

Instruction is in the form of lectures and seminars. Some of the seminars are chaired by students.

**Reading List**

See separate document.

**Examination**

Learning outcome 1 is assessed on the basis of mandatory seminars. Students who are absent from a mandatory seminar will be asked to submit a written hand-in assignment. Submitting make-up work is only allowed for two thirds of the seminars. More information about make-up assignments is provided when the course begins.

Learning outcomes 2 and 3 are assessed on the basis of a final written assignment.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

**Grades**

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

**Quality Assurance**

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

**Course Certificate**

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

**Additional information**

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.