

PO9D5-20 The Value of Democracy; What is Democracy For?

24/25

Department

Politics & International Studies

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Renske Doorenspleet

Credit value

20

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

PO9D5-20

Module aims

To introduce students to key debates in the study of democracy and its values

To explore different concepts of democracy, and to discuss the debates

To distinguish between different types of values

To critically examine and illuminate the consequences of democracy on specific outcomes (the instrumental value)

To critically examine the intrinsic value of democracy

To critically examine the constructive value of democracy

To empirically investigate the strengths and weaknesses of democracy, democratic models and different types of democracy

To show why these factors must be taken into account when assessing the prospects for democracy

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Week 1 - The Value of Democracy in Comparative Perspective

Week 2 - Corruption

Week 3 Interstate war

Week 4 - Civil War

Week 5 - Climate Change

Week 6 - (Reading Week)

Week 7- Democracy for its own sake

Week 8 - The role of education in Democracies

Week 9 - The Resilience of Authoritarianism

Week 10 - Policy Recommendations

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Knowledge how to appraise the value of democracy in comparative perspective, mainly by comparing different countries.
- Demonstrate advanced empirical knowledge of at least one country, but preferably two countries, and relate/ apply this knowledge to one of the theoretical questions in this field
- Recognize the different assumptions/biases underpinning the debates around the value of democracy
- Develop practical skills in the retrieval and presentation of information, demonstrated in class presentations and essay
- Develop skills in oral communication, demonstrated in class discussions and presentations. Developed skills in written communication, demonstrated in assessed essays
- Develop participatory skills, exhibited in class work
- Enhanced powers of critical analysis, tested by the normal assessment methods.

Indicative reading list

- Bastian, S. and R. Luckham (2003), Can Democracy be Designed? The Politics of Institutional Choice in Post-Conflict Societies, Zed Books (read of the chapters, focusing on one country, so e.g. South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Fiji or Bosnia)
- Dewey, J. (1916). Democracy and Education: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Education. New York: Macmillan (part of the book).
- Doorenspleet, R. (2017) Rethinking the Value of Democracy in Comparative Perspective, London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Hegre, H. (2014), 'Democracy and armed conflict', Journal of Peace Research vol. 51 no. 2, pp. 159-172
- Payne, R. (1995), 'Are Democracies "Greener"?' Journal of Democracy, Vol. 6, No. 3, pp. 341-55.

- A. Sen, A. (1999) 'Democracy as a Universal Value', Journal of Democracy, Vol. 10, No. 3, pp. 3-17.

Subject specific skills

tbc

Transferable skills

tbc

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	9 sessions of 2 hours (9%)
Private study	182 hours (91%)
Total	200 hours

Private study description

tbc

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
5000 word essay	100%		Yes (extension)

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Feedback on the assessed essay will be provided to all students using the standard PAIS PG essay feedback form, providing commentary on comprehension, analysis, critique and presentation as well as overall comments and suggestions for improvement

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PX Double MA in Global Governance (with University of Waterloo, Canada)
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PT MA in International Development
- Year 1 of TPOS-M1PA MA in International Politics and Europe
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9Q1 Postgraduate Politics, Big Data and Quantitative Methods
- Year 1 of TPOS-M1P3 Postgraduate Taught International Political Economy
- Year 1 of TPOS-M1P8 Postgraduate Taught International Politics and East Asia
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9P9 Postgraduate Taught International Relations
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PC Postgraduate Taught International Security
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PS Postgraduate Taught Political and Legal Theory
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PF Postgraduate Taught Public Policy
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PQ Postgraduate Taught United States Foreign Policy

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PW Double MA in Politics and International Service (with American University, Washington DC)
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PE Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with NTU Singapore)
- TPOS-M9PP Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universität Konstanz, Germany)
 - Year 1 of M92B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
 - Year 1 of M92H Public Policy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of TIMA-L981 Postgraduate Social Science Research
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9P9 Postgraduate Taught International Relations
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PC Postgraduate Taught International Security
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PS Postgraduate Taught Political and Legal Theory
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PF Postgraduate Taught Public Policy
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PQ Postgraduate Taught United States Foreign Policy

- Year 1 of TPOS-M1PD Postgraduate Taught the Politics of Climate Change

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 1 of TPOS-M9Q1 Postgraduate Politics, Big Data and Quantitative Methods