



Asignatura: Análisis Político y Teorías de la Democracia

Código: 18982

Centro: Facultad de Ciencias Económicas y Empresariales

Titulación: Grado en Filosofía Política y Economía

Nivel: 2º (Primer Cuatrimestre)

Tipo: Obligatoria

Nº de créditos: 6 ECTS

## 1. ASIGNATURA / COURSE TITLE

DEMOCRATIC THEORY AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS

### 1.1. Código / Course number

18982

### 1.2. Materia/ Content area

Political Science and Theory

### 1.3. Tipo /Course type

Obligatoria / Compulsory

### 1.4. Nivel / Course level

Second Year

### 1.5. Curso / Year

2016/17

### 1.6. Semestre / Semester

FIRST SEMESTER,

### 1.7. Número de créditos / Credit allotment

6 credits

### 1.8. Requisitos previos / Prerequisites

None



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## 1.9. Requisitos mínimos de asistencia a las sesiones presenciales/ **Minimum attendance requirement**

Course attendance is mandatory except for exceptional reasons.

## 1.10. Datos del equipo docente / **Faculty data**

Fernando Vallespín, Catedrático de Ciencia Política,

Depto. de Ciencia Política y Relaciones Internacionales. Edificio de Ciencias Políticas, Económicas y Jurídicas, Despacho nº 5;

Tel.: 91 497 4774

[fernando.vallespin@uam.es](mailto:fernando.vallespin@uam.es)

## 1.11. Objetivos del curso / **Course objectives**

### 1. General skills:

- To gain interest in understanding the various theories of democracy, as well as its concepts, authors and central currents;
- to be capable of placing the various theories of democracy within the framework of more general Political Science studies;
- to know the main visions of politics and democracy from a diachronic perspective, with particular attention to its contemporary relevance;
- to provide learning tools in communication and research in Political Science.

The objective is

1. To maintain an analytical attitude toward reality and the use of basic theoretical assumptions, methods and techniques of the discipline to be studied
2. To express and convey complex ideas, problems and solutions, orally and in written form, to both specialist and non-specialist, using the tools of the social sciences.
3. To search, select, analyse and synthesise relevant information and to work with documentary bases and through new technologies of knowledge and communication.

## 2. Specific skills:

- To be capable of achieving a deep understanding of the structure and functioning of political systems.
- To know the structure and functioning of political institutions and the theory that lies behind it.

## 1.12. Contenidos del programa / Course contents

**Lesson 1: Introduction to the study of democracy.** A provisional definition from a historical perspective: the different democratic discourses. Democracy and political analysis.

**Lesson 2: Empirical or normative definitions?** Democracy: between norm and reality: Robert Dahl and the concept of poliarchy. The “democratic minimum”.

**Lesson 3: Why should we govern ourselves democratically?** Normative and empirical reasons: democracy and complexity. The challenge of neo-corporatism and of interest groups: “functional and sectorial democracy”.

**Lesson 4: What are the structural conditions of democracy?** Economic and cultural constraints.

**Lesson 5: How do we transit from an authoritarian to a democratic regime?** Democratic waves and the experiences of democratic transitions. What is a defective democracies”.

**Lesson 6: Is it possible to go beyond representative democracy?** Representation and political participation. “Radical democracy” and the challenge of “deliberative democracy”.

**Lesson 7: Can we improve democratic systems?** The debate on the “quality of democracy”: variables. What makes democratic systems stumble?

**Lesson 8: Have we passed from a party-democracy to a media-democracy?** The new organisation of the public sphere. Democracy and mass media. The challenge of social media.

**Lesson 9: Can globalization be democratized?** Democracy and the processes of supranational integration. Towards global democracy?

**Lesson 10: Have we entered into a “post-democracy”?** Signs of fatigue of the democratic ideal. Democracy in face of the future.

## 1.13. Referencias de consulta / Course bibliography

General references useful for the whole course:

- Del Aguila, R., Vallespín, F. y otros: *La democracia en sus textos* (Madrid: Alianza, 1998)
- Dahl, R.: *La democracia. Una guía para ciudadanos* (Barcelona: Ariel, 2012). Partes II y III.
- Kriesi, Hans Peter (ed) *Democracy: An Ongoing Challenge*, (Lars Müller Pubs. 2014)
- Manin, Bernard: *Principios del Gobierno Representativo* (Madrid: Alianza, 1998).
- Morlino, Leonardo: *Democracias y democratizaciones*, (Madrid: CIS, 2009).

Lesson 2: Normative and empirical definitions

Robert Dahl, *La democracia. Una guía para ciudadanos*, pp. 41-96.

Robert Dahl, *La poliarquía. Participación y oposición*, Madrid: Tecnos, 1989.

Lesson 4: Favourable y unfavourable conditions for democracy:

Gabriel Almond: “La historia intelectual del concepto de cultura cívica” (fragmento; desde p. 356-373, contenido en *La democracia en sus textos*.

Giovanni Sartori: “Hasta dónde puede ir un gobierno democrático”, contenido en *ibid*, pp. 521-531.

Robert Dahl, *La democracia. Una guía para ciudadanos*, pp. 167-218.

Lesson 5: Democracy and democratizations:

Leonardo Morlino, *Democracias y democratización*, Madrid: CIS, 2008, pp. 212-22

Press-clips on current processes of democratization.

*Democracias defectivas:*

Wolfgang Merkel, “Defective democracies. More Appearance than Reality?”, en H. P. Kiesi, *Democracy: An Ongoing Challenge*, pp. 270-275.

Lesson 6: Representation y participation:

Giovanni Sartori, *La democracia en 30 lecciones*, Madrid: Taurus, 2008, pp. 35-47

Sheldon Wolin, *Democracia*, Buenos Aires: Katz, cap. 12.

Benjamin Barber, *Democracia fuerte*, en *La democracia en sus textos*, (fragmento; pp. 290-294, más las notas que se corresponden a estas páginas).

*Deliberative Democracy:*

Joshua Cohen, “Deliberación y legitimidad democrática” (1989), *Cuaderno Gris* nº 9, pp. 127-145.



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Jürgen Habermas, *Facticidad y validez*, Madrid: Trotta, 1998, pp. 379-384.

F. Vallespín, “¿Cuánta deliberación es posible en las democracias contemporáneas?” en *Deliberación pública y democracias contemporáneas* Elena Beltrán y Fernando Vallespín (editores), Madrid: Síntesis.

#### Lesson 7: Quality of democracy

Leonardo Morlino, *Democracias y democratización*, Madrid: CIS, 2008, pp. 222-232.

Democracy Index 2010 de *The Economist*

#### Lesson 8: The restructuring of the public sphere: Democracy and the mass media:

Jürgen Habermas, *Facticidad y validez*, Madrid: Trotta, pp. 385-386; 633 (*in fine*)-634.

Charles Taylor, “El espacio público”, en *Imaginarios sociales modernos*, Barcelona, Paidós, 2006, cap.6.

Bernard Manin, *Los principios del gobierno representativo*, Madrid: Alianza Ed., 1998, pp. 267-287.

#### Lesson 9: Democracy at the global level.

David Held, “Democracia y el nuevo orden internacional”, en *La Democracia en sus textos*, Rafael del Águila y Fernando Vallespín (eds.), Madrid, Alianza Editorial, 1998, pp.503-521

Giovanni Sartori, “¿Hasta dónde puede ir un gobierno democrático?”, en *ibid.*, pp. 521.

#### Lesson 10: Post-democracy:

Colin Crouch, *Posdemocracia*, Madrid: Taurus, 2004.

“Democracy's Fatigue”, en H. P. Kiesi, *Democracy: An Ongoing Challenge*, pp. 438-459.

## 2. Métodos Docentes / Teaching methodology

The course is mainly based on lectures -“clases magistrales”- given by the professor. There will also be four Seminars throughout the course in which students will make oral presentations followed by debates.

The course is thought to be ‘interactive’; i.e., students are supposed to assume an active part through questions and debate.

## 3. Tiempo de trabajo del estudiante / Student workload

Attendance	1h 30 m x s 30 Clases = 45 horas/curso
Preparation of clases, study	3,5 horas x 30clases = 105 horas/curso
Preparation of final test	30 horas/curso
Total	180 horas/curso

## 4. Métodos de evaluación y porcentaje en la calificación final / Evaluation procedures and weight of components in the final grade

There will be a final exam at the end of the course, which will consist of 60 per cent of the final grade. The rest will depend on oral or written presentations and class-participation.

## 5. Cronograma\* / Course calendar

Week	Content	Presential hours	Students' non-presential hours
1	Lesson 1. (X y J)	3	7
2	L. 2 (X y J)	3	7
3	L. 3 (X y J)	3	7
4	L. 4 (X y J)	3	7
5	L. 5 (X y J)	3	7
6	L. 6 (X y J)	3	7
7	L. 6 (X y J)	3	7
8	L. 7 (X y J)	3	7



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Week	Content	Presential hours	Students' non-presential hours
9	L. 7 (X y J)	3	7
10	L. 8 (X y J)	3	7
11	L. 9 (X y J)	3	7
12	L. 9 (X y J)	3	7
13	L. 10 (X y J)	3	7
14	L. 10 (X y J)	3	7
15	Evaluation	1,5	

\*This chronogram is only illustrative; it might be changed depending on different contingencies such as the intensity of debates or other reasons.