
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
SPRING 2016

EUS3930 - DEMOCRACY IN THE EU SECTION: 22HG
POS4931 - DEMOCRACY IN THE EU SECTION: 2210

DEMOCRACY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Course Description

Is the European Union (EU) heading towards democracy or is the democratic deficit severe enough for the EU to be considered a non-democratic form of rule? The success of the European integration project is not comparable to that of any other international organization in the modern world. However, as the processes of widening (enlargement) and deepening (further integration) have been taking place in Europe, the sources of legitimacy of the EU are questioned. The perceived “need” for a gradual increase in democracy at the supranational level attracted not only political circles but also academic ones. This course is interested in a close reading of a new form of democratization process, which can produce a new form of ‘European democracy’ on a transnational scale.

Course Objectives

This course offers a critical approach to the concept and practice of democracy in general and particularly in the EU, by drawing upon democracy and regime literature in Comparative Politics and democratic-deficit literature in EU studies. This course will first introduce students to basic concepts and theories of democracy and democratization, to the critical analysis of the EU’s critical moments and gradual institutional changes starting from the aftermath of the Second World War until today. The second part of the course will introduce the debate on democratic deficit in the EU and the institutional structure of the EU. The final part will focus on the three components of democracy in the EU: (1) democratization of the EU institutions, (2) democracy within member states and finally (3) democratization in the prospective and new member states. The objective of this course is mainly to familiarize students with periods in which democratic institutions were created or substantially changed within the EU, more importantly question the emerging supranational element in the practice of democracy and the way it impacts democracy at national level.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

T | Period 9 (4:05 PM- 4:55 PM)

R | Period 9-10 (4:05 PM- 6:00 PM)

CLASSROOM: AND 134

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Office Hours: TBA

Important Dates:

01/05/2016

First Day of Classes

TBA/2016

Response Paper due in-class in hardcopy

TBA/2016

Mid-term I

TBA/2016

Mid-term II

TBA/2016

In-class Presentations

04/26/2016 7:30 pm

Send your final papers in word format to abaysal@ufl.edu

Quote of the Semester:

“Is democracy in the national state... destined to meet the fate of democracy in the city-state? Will it grow more and more attenuated until finally it lingers on as little more than a ghostly reminder of its earlier vigorous existence? In the same way that the idea and practice of democracy were shifted away from the city-state to the larger scale of the national state, will democracy as an idea and a set of practices now shift to the grander scale of transnational governments?” (Robert Dahl 1994:27)