

Course Title: **Democratic Participation and Social Action**

Course Code: **POLS782**

Descriptor Start Date: **31/01/2025**

POINTS: **15.00**

LEVEL: **7**

PREREQUISITE/S:

COREQUISITE/S:

RESTRICTION/S:

LEARNING HOURS

Hours may include lectures, tutorials, online forums, laboratories. Refer to your timetable and course information in Canvas for detailed information.

Total learning hours: 150

PRESCRIPTOR

Analyses channels for bringing about social action through democratic participation by comparing various models of democracy and how these models are reflected in real-world decision-making. It considers established mainstream democratic institutions as well as alternative forms of influencing decision-making such as discursive, radical and participatory practices, deliberative polling, citizen's juries, social movements and various kinds of counter-hegemonic strategy..

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Show critical awareness of established channels for influencing public policy outcomes in liberal democracies.
2. Identify, explain, and evaluate various models of democracy and their associated modes of democratic participation.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the theoretical basis of alternative forms of democratic decision-making and identify how these alternative forms are reflected in real-world practices.
4. Define their own research questions and select case studies that are appropriate for theoretical application.
5. Apply skills of observation and methodological strategies of participant-observation, non-participant observation, and/or ethnography to actual examples of democratic participation and social action.
Apply skills of observation and methodological strategies of participant-observation, non-participant observation, and/or ethnography to actual examples of democratic participation and social action.

Disclaimer: Course descriptors may be amended between teaching periods/semesters

CONTENT

Various models of democracy – direct vs representative, liberal, discursive, vs radical and participatory.

Established channels for influencing policy outcomes in a liberal democracy.

Alternative models of democratic decision-making: deliberative polls, citizen's juries, discursive practices, leaderless/anarchic decision-making.

Deepening democracy – the workplace and beyond.

Social movements – historical and contemporary examples, global civil society, democracy within social movements.

Hegemony and counter-hegemonic strategy.

LEARNING & TEACHING STRATEGIES

Lectures and tutorials. Learning outside the classroom in the “real world” will also be required for assessment 2.

ASSESSMENT PLAN

Assessment Event	Weighting %	Learning Outcomes
Individual assessment: mid-semester in-class test	20.00	2,3
Individual assignment: design an exercise in deliberative democracy	40.00	2,3,4
Individual assignment: reflective analysis of a real-world decision-making practice	40.00	1, 2,3,5

Grade Map

MAP1

A+ A A- Pass with Distinction

B+ B B- Pass with Merit

C+ C C- Pass

D Fail

Overall requirement/s to pass the course:

Students need an overall minimum grade of C- to pass this course.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Details of all learning resources (including journals, databases, websites etc.) are available from the course study guide.

For further information, contact: Te Ara Kete Aronui - Faculty of Culture & Society

Principal Programme: AK3704, Bachelor of Arts

Related Programme/s: AK3704

Disclaimer: Course descriptors may be amended between teaching periods/semesters