

## Course Syllabus

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Program of Study</b>          | Bachelor of Arts (Social Science)                   |
| <b>Faculty/Institute/College</b>    | Mahidol University International College            |
| <b>2. Course Code</b> ICSO 275      | <b>Course Title</b> Democracy as a Political System |
| <b>3. Number of Credits</b>         | 4 ( <b>Lecture / Lab</b> ) (4-0)                    |
| <b>4. Prerequisite (s)</b>          | None                                                |
| <b>5. Type of Course</b>            | Major elective for IS concentration                 |
| <b>6. Trimester / Academic Year</b> | TBA                                                 |

### 7. Course Description

Historical Developments; the principles, practices and processes of democracy; Essential elements; Criticisms, strengths and weaknesses; Alternative systems; Social and cultural pre-requisites for democracy; Possible future developments.

### 8. Course Objective (s)

1. To introduce the ideas and forms of democracy.
2. To encourage criticism as a democratic process.
3. To evaluate claims of democracy and alternative notions.
4. To apply the scientific method to the study of democracy.

### 9. Course Outline

Week	Topic		Instructor
	Lecture	Hour	
1	Introductory remarks and class mechanics; Psychological, economic and political democracy; Democracy and freedom	4	Jones
2	Characteristics of democracy : Government by consent of governed, majority rule and protection of individual and minority rights	4	
3	Weak and strong democracies (representation and participation)	4	
4	How is "consent" measured? Are elections necessary? What constitutes a majority? The issue of entitlement Tyranny of the majority	4	
5	The common good, the general will and other essential abstractions	4	
6	Democratizing the economy; Democracy and ecology	4	
7	Democratizing democracy People movements and democracy	4	
8	Neo - liberalism and the cooptation of democracy : The 2000 US election	4	
9	The manufacture of "consent" uses of media, education and emotional appeals for political propaganda; Vigilantes and the abuse of rights; the spread of neo - liberalism	4	
10	Demagoguery and the use of fear	4	
11	The future of democracy; Socialism and the possible return of Communism	4	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	

**10. Teaching Method (s)**

Lecture and discussion.

**11. Teaching Media**

Texts, transparencies, videos.

**12. Measurement and evaluation of student achievement**

The standard scale of 90 - 100 = A, 85 - 89 = B+, 80 - 84 = B, etc. 60 is required to pass.

**13. Course evaluation**

Grading will be based on two in - class exams (45% each) and contribution to discussion 10%)

**14. Reference (s)**

- 1) Richard Swift, *No Nonsense Guide to Democracy*, New Internationalist, Oxford, 2002 (text).
- 2) Michael Moore, *Stupid White Men*, Penguin, London, 2002 (text).
- 3) Robert A. Dahl, *Democracy and its Critics*, Yale University, New Haven, 1989 (reference).
- 4) Noam Chomsky, *Profit Over People*, Seven Stories, New York, 1999 (reference).

**15. Instructor (s)**

Eugene Jones

**16. Course Coordinator**

Eugene Jones