



UNIWERSYTET
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W POZNANIU

Direct Democracy: Theory and Practice. East and West European Experience

Educational subject description sheet

Basic information

Study programme European Legal Studies		Didactic cycle 2024/25
Speciality -		Subject code 10ELSS.18N.04858.24
Organizational unit Faculty of Law and Administration		Lecture languages English
Study level First-cycle programme		Course type Elective
Study form Full-time		Block Subjects not assigned
Education profile General academic		
Subject coordinator	Katarzyna Woźniak-Boińska, Magdalena Musiał-Karg	
Lecturer	Magdalena Musiał-Karg	
Period Semester 4	Activities and hours • Lecture: 30, Graded credit; including sub-activities: ◦ Synchronous lecture: 30	Number of ECTS points 4

Goals

Code	Goal
C1	• widening and deepening students' knowledge on direct democratic government • examining the use and the role of direct democratic instruments in Eastern and Western European countries • widening the theoretical knowledge on democracy, its forms, concepts, tools, legal procedures • comparison of direct democratic experiences in Eastern and Central European countries • examining the role of direct democracy in contemporary Europe • raising awareness of the importance of electorate's involvement in decision-making process • providing the knowledge on the impact of various factors on "quality" of direct democracy in certain countries from WE and CEE

Subject learning outcomes

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Learning outcomes	Examination methods
Knowledge - Student:			
W1	is able to identify the most important forms of democracy and knows various concepts of democracy	ELS_K1_W03, ELS_K1_W04	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation
W2	identifies different instruments of direct democracy	ELS_K1_W03, ELS_K1_W04	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation
W3	is familiar with the legal procedures of direct democratic tools in different countries	ELS_K1_W03, ELS_K1_W05, ELS_K1_W06	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation
W4	is able to identify the practical aspects of theoretical concepts and adapt his/her legal interpretation skills in simple case studies	ELS_K1_W03, ELS_K1_W04, ELS_K1_W06, ELS_K1_W07, ELS_K1_W12	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation
W5	has knowledge about the experience of using direct democracy in Europe	ELS_K1_W03, ELS_K1_W04, ELS_K1_W06, ELS_K1_W07, ELS_K1_W12	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation
W6	identifies similarities and differences in the use of DD in the CEE and WE countries	ELS_K1_W02, ELS_K1_W03, ELS_K1_W06, ELS_K1_W07	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation
W7	is able to identify factors influencing direct democracy in certain countries	ELS_K1_W02, ELS_K1_W03, ELS_K1_W06, ELS_K1_W07	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation
Skills - Student:			
U1	is able to identify the most important forms of democracy and knows various concepts of democracy	ELS_K1_U01, ELS_K1_U05	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation
U2	identifies different instruments of direct democracy	ELS_K1_U02	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation
U3	is familiar with the legal procedures of direct democratic tools in different countries	ELS_K1_U05, ELS_K1_U08	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation
U4	is able to identify the practical aspects of theoretical concepts and adapt his/her legal interpretation skills in simple case studies	ELS_K1_U08	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation
U5	has knowledge about the experience of using direct democracy in Europe	ELS_K1_U03	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation
U6	identifies similarities and differences in the use of DD in the CEE and WE countries	ELS_K1_U01, ELS_K1_U03	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation
U7	is able to identify factors influencing direct democracy in certain countries	ELS_K1_U01, ELS_K1_U03	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation
Social competences - Student:			
K1	is able to identify the practical aspects of theoretical concepts and adapt his/her legal interpretation skills in simple case studies	ELS_K1_K01	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Learning outcomes	Examination methods
K2	has knowledge about the experience of using direct democracy in Europe	ELS_K1_K01	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation
K3	identifies similarities and differences in the use of DD in the CEE and WE countries	ELS_K1_K01	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation
K4	is able to identify factors influencing direct democracy in certain countries	ELS_K1_K01	Test, Essay, Multimedia presentation

Study content

No.	Course content	Subject learning outcomes	Activities
1.	Theory of democracy – introduction 1. Definition of democracy 2. Definitions of: power, people, ruling 3. Principles of democracy 4. Contemporary theories of democracy 5. Representative democracy vs. direct democracy	W1, W2, U1, U2	Lecture, Synchronous lecture
2.	DIRECT DEMOCRACY IN SWITZERLAND 1. Historical development of Swiss DD institutions 2. Swiss diversities and their impact on political institutions 3. Swiss diversities and their impact on DD 4. Direct Democratic Instruments in Swiss Constitution (federal level) 4.1. obligatory referendum 4.2. facultative referendum 4.3. popular initiative 4.4. counter-proposal 5. The use of DD at the federal level in Switzerland	W1, W2, W3, W4, U1, U2, U3, U4, K1	Lecture, Synchronous lecture
3.	DIRECT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN SWISS CANTONS AND MINICIPALITIES 1. The Role of the Swiss cantons 2. Institutions of DD at the cantonal level 2.1. referendums 2.2. popular initiative 2.3. Landsgemeinde as a unique form of DD 3. Functioning of DD in the Swiss cantons in practice 4. Municipalities and its position in the Swiss federal state 5. Institutions of DD at the local level 6. referendums 7. popular initiative 8. Einwohnerversammlung in the Swiss municipalities 9. Functioning of DD in the Swiss cantons in Swiss communes 10. DD at the federal, cantonal and local level – main conclusions	W1, W2, W3, W4, U1, U2, U3, U4	Lecture, Synchronous lecture

No.	Course content	Subject learning outcomes	Activities
4.	Direct Democracy in West European Countries 1. the use of DD in so called "heavy user" countries: 2. direct democratic experience in Scandinavian countries 3. dD in Germany, the Netherland, Belgium 4. Impact of direct democratic instruments on the political system 5. Impact of direct democracy on the society 5.1. Electoral participation 5.2. Referendum and legitimacy 5.3. Civil society Political culture	W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, U1, U2, U3, U4, U5, K2	Lecture, Synchronous lecture
5.	Direct Democratic experience in Western Europe – chosen dimensions 1. DD and its use in Western Countries – conclusions 2. Analysis of different factors related to the use of DD 2.1. Number of referendums, 2.2. Turnout in referendums 2.3. Most popular subjects of referendums 2.4. Frequency of referendums 3. Positive and negative aspects of using DD in Western Europe Direct Democratic experience – selected cases	W3, W4, W5, W6, W7, U3, U4, U5, U6, U7, K1, K2, K3, K4	Lecture, Synchronous lecture
6.	Direct Democracy in east European Countries - main dimensions of the Use of DD tools 1. Development of DD in Eastern Europe 2. Referendums in post-communist countries 3. Referendums in authoritarian countries 4. Direct democracy's influence on the political system 5. Impact of direct democracy on the society Political culture	W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, U1, U2, U3, U4, U5, K1, K2	Lecture, Synchronous lecture
7.	Referenda in EASTern europe - recent experiences 1. DD and its use in Western Countries – conclusions 2. Analysis of different factors related to the use of DD 3. Positive and negative experiences with DD in Eastern countries Direct Democratic experience in CEE – selected cases DIRECT DEMOCRACY IN THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION 1. Referenda on the "European" issues 2. DD in the history of the European integration 3. Accession referenda 4. Referenda on the European Treaties 5. Referenda on other issues	W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, U1, U2, U3, U4, U5, K1, K2	Lecture, Synchronous lecture

No.	Course content	Subject learning outcomes	Activities
8.	DD as a WAY of shaping the proces of european integration 1. Referenda in the EU Member states 2. Referenda in non-EU member states 3. Widening referendums 4. Deepening referendums 5. Chosen aspects of DD use in the EU – national votings on international issues 6. European citizens initiative as the EU direct democratic instrument	W3, W4, W5, W6, W7, U3, U4, U5, U6, U7, K1, K2, K3, K4	Lecture, Synchronous lecture
9.	The Role of DD in EUROPE. The prospects of DD in Europe 1. DD and political system (institutions, political parties, politicians) 2. DD and society (turnout, civil society, political culture) 3. DD in unite states (national referenda) 4. DD in federal states (national, regional, local instruments of DD) E-direct democracy as a new way of participating in democratic procedures	W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, W6, W7, U1, U2, U3, U4, U5, U6, U7, K1, K2, K3, K4	Lecture, Synchronous lecture

Additional information

Activities	Teaching and learning methods and activities
Lecture	Lecture with a multimedia presentation of selected issues, Discussion, Demonstration and observation, Audio and/or video demonstrations, Activating method - "brainstorming", Activating method - SWOT analysis, Activating method - decision tree, Activating method - the "snowball" method, Activating method - constructing "mind maps", Work in groups

Activities	Credit conditions
Lecture	<p>excellent (A ; 5,0):</p> <p>a) excellent knowledge of the theory and practice of direct democracy</p> <p>b) very good background for discussing problems and perspectives of direct democracy</p> <p>very good (B+; 4,5):</p> <p>c) very good knowledge of the theory and practice of direct democracy</p> <p>d) verygood background for discussing problems and perspectives of direct democracy</p> <p>good (B ; 4,0):</p> <p>a) good knowledge of the theory and practice of direct democracy</p> <p>b) good background for discussing problems and perspectives of direct democracy</p> <p>average (C+,3,5)</p> <p>a) average knowledge the theory and practice of direct democracy</p> <p>b) average background for discussing problems and perspectives of direct democracy</p> <p>satisfactory (C; 3,0):</p> <p>a) satisfactory knowledge the theory and practice of direct democracy</p> <p>b) satisfactory background for discussing problems and perspectives of direct democracy</p> <p>unsatisfactory (D ; 2,0):</p> <p>a) unsatisfactory knowledge of the theory and practice of direct democracy</p> <p>c) unsatisfactory background for discussing problems and perspectives of direct democracy</p>

Literature

Obligatory

1. □ Cronin T. E., Direct Democracy. The Politics of Initiative, Referendum, and Recall, Cambridge, Massachusetts, London 1989. □ Direct Democracy in Europe. A Comprehensive Reference Guide to the Initiative and Referendum Process in Europe, eds. B. Kaufmann, M. D. Waters, IRI Europe, Durham-North Carolina 2004. □ Direct Democracy: The Eastern and Central European Experience, eds. A. Auer, M. Bützer, Ashgate Publishing Ltd., Aldershot-Burlington-Singapur-Sydney 2001.
2. Guidebook to Direct Democracy in Switzerland and Beyond, red. B. Kaufmann, R. Büchi, N. Braun, P. Carline, IRI-Europe, Amsterdam 2005. Kobach K., The referendum: Direct Democracy in Switzerland, Vermont 1993. Leduc L., The Politics of Direct Democracy. Referendums in Global Perspective, Broadview Press, Toronto 2003. Qvortrup M., A comparative study of referendums. Government by the people, New York 2002.
3. Referendums around the World. The Growing Use of Direct Democracy, eds. D. Butler, A. Ranney, Washington DC 1994. The Referendum Experience in Europe, eds. M. Gallagher, V. Uleri, MacMillan, Basingstoke-Londyn 1996. And readings prepared in so called READER to the COURSE Fossedal G. A., Direct Democracy in Switzerland, Transactions Publishers, New Brunswick-London 2009.

Optional

1. □ Almond G. A., Powell G. B., Mundt R. J., Comparative politics. A theoretical framework, Harper Collins College Publ., New York 1999. □ Budge I., The New Challenge of Direct Democracy, Polity Press, Cambridge 1996. □ Comparing Democracies: Elections and Voting in Global Perspectives, eds. L. Leduc, R. G. Niemi, P. Norris, Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, 1996. □ Dahl R. A., Democracy and Its Critics, New Heaven 1991.
2. Klöti U., Knoepfel P., Kriesi H., Linder W., Papadopoulos Y., Handbook of Swiss Politics, Neue Zürcher Zeitung Publishing, Zurich 1999. □ Linder, W., Demokracja szwajcarska. Rozwiązywanie konfliktów w społeczeństwie wielokulturowym, Rzeszów 1996. □ Mendelsohn M., Referendum democracy citizens, elites and deliberation in referendum campaigns, Palgrave, Basingstoke 2003.
3. Möckli S., Direkte Demokratie. Ein internationaler Vergleich, Verlag Paul Haupt, Berno-Stuttgart-Wiedeń 1994. □ Qvortrup M., Constitutional Implications of the Use of the Referendum, University of Oxford 1999. □ Referendum Democracy. Citizens, Elites and Deliberation in Referendum Campaigns, eds. M. Mendelsohn, A. Parkin, New York 2001.

Calculation of ECTS points

Activities	Activity hours*
Lecture	30
Preparation for classes	20
Reading the indicated literature	20
Preparation for the assessment	20
Preparation for the exam	20
Other	10
Student workload	Hours 120
Number of ECTS points	ECTS 4

* academic hour = 45 minutes

Efekty uczenia się dla kierunku

Kod	Treść
ELS_K1_K01	The graduate is ready to critically appraise his or her knowledge, particularly in the context of the changing acquis on the regulation and critical assessment of the acquired knowledge, especially in view of the changing acquis on the regulation and application of law
ELS_K1_U01	The graduate can interpret social phenomena (cultural, political, legal, economic) within legal science
ELS_K1_U02	The graduate can use the basic theoretical knowledge and independently procure data to analyse individual processes and social phenomena (cultural, political, legal and economic) within legal science
ELS_K1_U03	The graduate can analyse the causes and course of individual processes and social phenomena (cultural, political, legal and economic) within legal science
ELS_K1_U05	The graduate can use basic EU normative systems and selected norms, rules and regulations (legal, professional, moral) to solve a specific task
ELS_K1_U08	The graduate can identify and analyse the basic phenomena that occur in legal sciences and are related to European integration
ELS_K1_W02	The graduate knows and understands the basic assumptions of integration processes analysed on the example of the European Union, in the social, cultural and economic context
ELS_K1_W03	The graduate knows and understands the concept and scope of European Union law, including a deepened understanding of its sources approached in a systematic way
ELS_K1_W04	The graduate knows and understands a deepened understanding of the European Convention for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms against the background of international systems of human rights protection
ELS_K1_W05	The graduate knows and understands the structure of the European law system against the background of its relations with international and national legal orders
ELS_K1_W06	The graduate knows and understands the basic procedures of European law-making
ELS_K1_W07	The graduate knows and understands the main institutions of the European Union and the relationships among them, including their respective competences
ELS_K1_W12	The graduate knows and understands methods and tools, including techniques, of obtaining data on the existing EU legislation and related to it institutionalised structures