

## COURSE OUTLINE

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>LECTURER</b>	Konstantinos Kavoulakos		
<b>SEMESTER</b> (fall/spring)	Spring		
<b>SCHOOL</b>	PHILOSOPHY		
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL STUDIES		
<b>LEVEL</b>	Pre-graduate (level 6)		
<b>COURSE CODE</b>	ΦB 340.6	<b>SEMESTER OF STUDIES</b> (1-8)	5 <sup>th</sup> or higher
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	Rationality and democracy		
<b>INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>WEEKLY LECTURE HOURS</b>	<b>ECTS CREDITS</b>
		3	10
<b>COURSE CLASSIFICATION</b>	Seminar		
<b>COURSE TYPE</b>	Specific scientific field/development of skills		
<b>TEACHING COMPETENCE COURSE</b>	NO		
<b>PREREQUISITES</b>	-		
<b>TEACHING AND EXAMINATION LANGUAGE</b>	Greek		
<b>AVAILABLE FOR ERASMUS STUDENTS</b>	YES		
<b>COURSE URL</b>			

## 2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course aims at familiarizing students with the problems of constituting a theory of democracy with a critical orientation through the analysis of relevant philosophical texts of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Upon completion of the course, students should

- Have acquired a thorough understanding of the problems of the classical theory of democracy of the modern times (the opposition between individual and the collectivity/community, the rational collective will formation, justification of political power, etc.).
- Have acquired a deeper understanding of the attempt at a mediation between individual and collectivity through a formalist theory of democracy as a set of rational procedures or a dialectical theory of democracy as a regime.
- Know the basic characteristics of the approach to democracy an inclusive concept that comprises the whole of the social-historical process.
- Have achieved a deeper understanding of the idea of the mediation of individual and collectivity through social practice and, more generally, of the dialectical nature of the democratic project.
- Be familiarized with the basic representatives of this direction of the theory of democracy of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
- Be in a position to apply the concepts of a critical theory of democracy to contemporary discussions on the fundamentals of democracy by comparing them.
- To be able to formulate critical remarks on such approaches from the standpoint of critical theory but also, reversely, to critique the latter on the basis of other theoretical perspectives.
- To have acquired a good understanding of the problem of the relation between social values and democracy.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

Collection, analysis and synthesis of data and information with the help of the appropriate conventional or digital tools.

Adapting to new situations

Independent work

Team work

Production of new research ideas

Respect for difference and multiculturalism.

Criticism and self-criticism.

Production of free, creative and inductive thinking.

## 3. COURSE CONTENT

During the course we will read and discuss fundamental texts of the critical theory tradition. We will refer to the following issues:

- 1) First, we will discuss the wider context of the debate on the normative fundamentals of modern liberal democracies that started in the 1980s and continues until today.
- 2) Our starting point will be the most complete attempt to found the liberal and democratic

principles on a contemporary, “post-metaphysical” concept of reason, Jürgen Habermas’s theory of democracy.

- 3) However, connecting democracy with the concept of communicative reason led to a universalist and formalist theory of democracy, which can be critiqued in many respects. We will have the opportunity to discuss the attempts of critical theorists to supplement or rectify the shortcomings of the theory of “deliberative democracy” connected with its formalist orientation (e.g. A. Wellmer, A. Honneth) or to transcend its limitations by following new directions (C. Castoriadis).

#### 4. TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

<b>TEACHING METHOD</b>	Face to Face	
<b>USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES</b>	Projecting ppt-files during the seminar, using classweb and electronic communication media.	
<b>COURSE STRUCTURE</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>SEMESTER WORKLOAD</b>
	Exercise	39
	Preparation for the classes	110
	Preparation for and writing of the essay	76
	Preparation for the oral presentation	25
	TOTAL	250
<b>ASSESSMENT METHOD</b>	Oral presentation and participation in the class. Written seminar essay.	

#### 5. RECOMMENDED READING

- 1) Jürgen Habermas: Αποσπάσματα από τις παραδόσεις «Δίκαιο και ηθική (Tanner Lectures 1986)» (από το τ. ιδίου, *Το πραγματικό και το ισχύον*, Λιβάνης: Αθήνα 1996).
- 2) Jürgen Habermas: «Η λαϊκή κυριαρχία ως διαδικασία» (από το *ό.π.*).
- 3) Jürgen Habermas: «Περί του εσωτερικού συνδέσμου κράτους δικαίου και δημοκρατίας».
- 4) Albrecht Wellmer: «Μοντέλα ελευθερίας στο νεωτερικό κόσμο» (από το τ. ιδίου, *Η ελευθερία στο νεωτερικό κόσμο*, Αλεξάνδρεια: Αθήνα 2001).
- 5) Axel Honneth: «Η δημοκρατία ως αναστοχαστική συνεργασία» (από το τ. ιδίου, *Από την επικοινωνία στην αναγνώριση*, Πόλις: Αθήνα 2000).
- 6) Κορνήλιος Καστοριάδης: «Εξουσία, πολιτική, αυτονομία» (από το τ. ιδίου, *Οι ομιλίες στην Ελλάδα*, Ύψιλον: Αθήνα 1990).
- 7) Κορνήλιος Καστοριάδης: «Φύση και αξία της ισότητας» (από το τ. ιδίου, *Χώροι του ανθρώπου*, Ύψιλον: Αθήνα 1995).
- 8) Κορνήλιος Καστοριάδης: «Η δημοκρατία ως διαδικασία και ως καθεστώς» (από το τ.

ιδίου, *Η άνοδος της ασημαντότητας*, Ύψιλον: Αθήνα 2000).