

IEP Post-Graduation Seminar
MA / Mestrado / PhD / Erasmus

Democracy, Civil Society and Religion

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PROGRAM 2020/21

Democracy, Civil Society and Religion have ever since been inextricably interwoven, not only in Western Civilization. This Seminar proposes to analyze and to debate that complex but very fruitful relationship as well as to trace its contemporary dynamics. The working sessions are divided into two parts in order to permit a more substantial reflection upon possible final conclusions: In the first part, we address the topic from the perspective of Democracy and Civil Society and, in the second, from the point of view of Religion.

Part 1

1. Key Concepts of Democracy & Civil Society in Key Readings across the modern age.
2. The Connection between Democracy and Civil Society (Larry Diamond).
3. Civil Rights, Political Participation and the State according to Kant, Hegel
Tocqueville and Almond and Verba.
4. Challenges for Civil Society in the 21st Century:
 - a) The flaws of Democracy (Robert Putman)
 - b) New media (Henry Jenkins` "Convergence Culture")
 - c) Authoritarianism & The assault on civil society (Donald Rutzen)
 - d) Criticism (Globalism and the World Social Forum)
5. Future Landscapes of Civil Society: The World Economic Forum Report

Part 2

1. The separation of Church and State: the traditional account
2. The invention of the individual: an alternative account of the Liberal State
3. Religion, the West and the Rest

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Part 1

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DIAMOND, Larry e Marc Plattner (ed.) (1993), *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

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LINZ, J Juan e Alfred Stepan (ed.) (1996), *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*, Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press

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The Journal of Democracy, 2015, January, vol. 26, number 1: "Is Democracy in Decline?"

Part 2

FAWCETT, Edmund, *Liberalism: The Life of an Idea*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014.

LILLA, Mark, *The Stillborn God: Religion, Politics and the Modern West*, New York, First Vintage Books, 2008.

SCRUTON, Roger, *The West and the Rest*, London, Continuum, 2003.

SIEDENTOP, Larry, *Inventing the Individual: The Origins of Western Liberalism*, London, Allen Tate, 2014.

TALMON, J.T., *The Rise of Totalitarian Democracy*, Boston, Beacon Press, 1952.

TAYLOR, Charles, *A Secular Age*, Harvard University Press, 2007.

METHODOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Teaching:

Theoretical-practical approach

Evaluation:

Attendance and Participation in Seminar Work (Readings and Comments)

Final Essay