COURSE DETAIL

DEMOCRACY AND EDUCATION IN THE HISTORY OF EUROPEAN IDEAS

Country
France

Host Institution
Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)

Program(s)
Sciences Po Paris

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Political Science History Education

UCEAP Course Number
135

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
DEMOCRACY AND EDUCATION IN THE HISTORY OF EUROPEAN IDEAS

UCEAP Transcript Title
DEMOCRACY&EDUCATION

UCEAP Quarter Units
4.50

UCEAP Semester Units
3.00

Course Description

This course explores the formation and development of educational thought throughout Western history. It analyzes the influence that the rise of modern democracy - and the social, philosophical, and political transformations it entailed - had on our vision of education. As the Church's authority gradually declined in the eighteenth century with the emergence of Enlightenment ideas, new ways of thinking about the role of the state and the purpose of education emerged. Education became increasingly tied to political life and was seen as a central element for the development and stability of modern democratic societies. A central theme throughout the course, therefore, concerns the political function of education: Who should control education? Why should the state intervene? For whom is it intended? The course studies the way various thinkers have thought about the purpose of education, whether it is to shape moral character, to prepare citizens for civic life, to train workers for economic productivity or to foster personal emancipation and freedom. By studying the long and complex history of educational thought in its political and social contexts, this course offers an invaluable training for thinking critically and flexibly about the political challenges of our own time.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
DSPO 25A81

Host Institution Course Title
DEMOCRACY AND EDUCATION IN THE HISTORY OF EUROPEAN IDEAS

Host Institution Course Details
https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/fr/?202510%2F286215=

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
Seminar

Host Institution Department
Political Science

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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