

COURSE DETAIL

THE POLITICS OF DISTRUST IN A POLARIZED AGE

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

UCEAP Course Number

116

UCEAP Course Suffix

D

UCEAP Official Title

THE POLITICS OF DISTRUST IN A POLARIZED AGE

UCEAP Transcript Title

POLITICS DISTRUST

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course examines the role of popular distrust (e.g., perceptions of government corruption, waste, abuse) in contemporary democratic and electoral-authoritarian regimes. It probes contradictions in how scholars approach distrust within democracy. It explores how distrust gets politicized and interacts with institutions and inequalities to drive participation and political violence; reactions to public spending, taxation, public-health risk and conspiracy theories; and voting behavior among groups who feel threatened (economically, culturally). By foregrounding questions of power and state capacity—and what remains of them—in the minds of voters facing new social risks, this course offers a path to harness the mobilizing force of distrust within a neo-republican framework.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

DSPO 25A80

Host Institution Course Title

THE POLITICS OF DISTRUST IN A POLARIZED AGE

Host Institution Course Details

<https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/fr/?202510/286215>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Seminar

Host Institution Department

Political Science

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

[Print](#)