

COURSE DETAIL

THE CHALLENGES OF PLURALISM

Country

France

Host Institution

Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)

Program(s)

Sciences Po Paris

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Philosophy

UCEAP Course Number

111

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

THE CHALLENGES OF PLURALISM

UCEAP Transcript Title

CHALLNG OF PLURALISM

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

With the dual objective of introducing contemporary political philosophy and reflecting on often heated public controversies, this course focuses on the challenges posed by pluralism, as it is, in fact and in law, an essential characteristic of liberal democratic societies. First, it studies how the state and public institutions can manage the antagonistic plurality of worldviews and conceptions of the good, focusing on three models: tolerance, recognition, and the governance of diversity. The course then asks on what basis it is possible to reach agreement in a context of pluralism. Is it possible to reach public agreement while respecting the disagreements and even conflicts that are an inevitable manifestation of pluralism? Or is it not the very nature of a pluralistic democracy to break with any quest for unanimity, or even consensus? Finally, the course analyzes the concrete challenges that arise when pluralism is taken into account in different areas of public policy: moral and civic education, the management of religious diversity (secularism), the integration of foreigners (from reception to naturalization), and European integration as embodied by the EU. From these different angles, the course considers what a liberal-democratic citizenship that takes pluralism seriously, both in theory and in practice, would consist of.

Language(s) of Instruction

French

Host Institution Course Number

CAFF 25F52

Host Institution Course Title

LES DÉFIS DU PLURALISME

Host Institution Course Details

<https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/en/?202520/291233>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Seminar

Host Institution Department

International Relations

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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