



## **Module Title: Democratic Resilience**

### **Module Code: POP88354**

**Module Name:** Democratic resilience and democratic backsliding: How do democracies die (and survive)?

- **ECTS Weighting: 5**
- **Semester/Term Taught: HT**
- **Contact Hours: 5x2h**
- **Module Personnel: Dr Matthias Dilling**

**Module Learning Aims:** This graduate seminar aims to introduce students to the social scientific study of democratic resilience and democratic backsliding. It seeks to empower students to explain, examine, and appraise concepts, arguments, and empirical approaches and findings in relation to the survival and death of democratic regimes by drawing on the comparative literature in political science.

**Module Learning Outcomes:** On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Describe and outline issues, concepts, and empirical findings relating to the development of democratic regimes and the challenges they have faced,
- Compare and contrast academic arguments that seek to explain different regime trajectories,
- Critically examine and appraise empirical evidence to investigate the effects of various potential causes on regime trajectories and the role of different actors within these processes, and
- Formulate and defend answers to analytical problems around the nature, development, and prospects of democratic governance.

**Module Content:** Democracies around the globe face manifold challenges. While some democratic regimes have succumbed to these challenges and backslid into non-democratic rule, others have been more successful in coping under pressure. This module examines the drivers of these different regime trajectories. It begins by critically reviewing concepts like democracy, democratization, and democratic backsliding to highlight the multi-faceted and dynamic nature of democratic rule. It then examines the various challenges – both at a macro and micro level – as well as how (well) democracies have engaged with these challenges and why.



## Recommended Reading List:

- Ahmed, Amel. 2025. *The Regime Question. Foundations of Democratic Governance in Europe and the United States*. Princeton University Press.
- Levitsky, Steven, and Daniel Ziblatt. 2018. *How Democracies Die. What History Reveals About Our Future*. Viking.
- Przeworski, Adam. 2019. *Crises of Democracy*. Cambridge University Press.

Module Pre-Requisite:

Module Co-Requisite:

## Assessment Details:

- Participation (20%)
- Essay plan (20%)
- Final essay (60%)