POS221 Democracy and Civil Society (3 Units)

Department of Political Science and International Relations

Covenant University
1. POS221
1.1. POS221 Democracy and Civil Society (3 Units)

This course will navigate through the normative and empirical contours of democracy and civil society. The lists of questions that shall be explored include: What is democracy? Why is democracy a political system worth defending? How can we measure democracy? How can we assess the quality of democracies? What are the sources of democracy (e.g., economic, cultural, institutional)? What are the necessary and sufficient conditions that must exist for democracy to develop and flourish? What is democratic consolidation? What is the relationship between civil society and the health and maintenance of democracy? In comparative perspective, what do democracy look like across states? What institutional arrangements (e.g., presidential, parliamentarianism, electoral systems) are characteristic of democracies across the globe? How does the choice of these types of institutional arrangement shape democracies? What effect do global forces have on democracies and the prospects for democratization?