

# “Is Democracy Doomed?”

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## **Course Overview:**

This course is a one day exploration of the current state of democracy, its challenges, and potential futures. The emphasis will focus on interactive discussions rather than traditional lectures and participants will be encouraged to engage and explore a range of diverse perspectives.

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## **What to expect...**

**Morning Session One** - A brief overview of Ideological Perspectives and Theories of Democracy

- \* Classical and contemporary democratic theories.
- \* Different ideological frameworks (liberalism, republicanism, socialism.)
- \* Discussion on the evolution of democratic thought and its relevance today
- \* Analysis of the principles of democracy: participation, representation, and accountability.

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**Morning Session Two** - Modern Criticisms of Democracy (We will try to discuss as many of these as possible in the time allocated but may not manage all of them)

- \* Erosion of Democratic Norms
- \* Examination of how democratic principles are being undermined.
- \* Influence of Money and Lobbying

- \* Analysis of campaign financing and its impact on political decisions.
  - \* Discussion on the role of interest groups and corporate influence.
  - \* Flawed Electoral Systems\*
  - \* Instability and Economic Inequality - how economic disparities affect political stability and representation.
  - \* Rise of Populism/autocracy - Examination of the causes and consequences of populist movements
  - \* Corruption - Exploration of corruption in politics and its effects on public trust
  - \* Analysis of cultural conflicts and identity politics and their implications for democratic discourse.
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### Afternoon Session - The Future of Democracy

- \* Re-engaging with Citizens - Discussion on the importance of citizen involvement in democratic processes.
- \* Examination of successful models of citizen engagement - referendums, citizen assemblies, e petitions
- \* Discussion on better transparency and accountability measures.
- \* Discussion on the potential for technology to enhance democratic participation.
- \* Is Democracy overrated and can it be resuscitated?

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### **Conclusion...**

- \* Summary of key insights gained throughout the course.
- \* Open floor for participants to discuss their final thoughts on the future of democracy.

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