



## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

### **EU2123 Political and Public Spheres and Spaces in European History and Culture, 10 credits**

Politiska och offentliga sfärer och rum i europeisk historia och kultur, 10 högskolepoäng

*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Political Science on 2018-02-06 to be valid from 2018-11-29, autumn semester of 2018.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* Department of Political Science

#### **Position in the educational system**

The course is given within the Master's Programme in European Studies (two year programme) and is a compulsory core course within the Humanities Track. Students not enrolled in the programme may attend this course as an independent course if space is available.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in European Studies (S2EUS)

#### *Main field of studies*

European Studies

#### *Specialization*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

The entry requirements for admission to the course is a Bachelor's degree of 180 credits, with a minimum of 90 credits in consecutive courses in a social sciences discipline, humanities discipline or equivalent. Students at the Law programme are also eligible the course after three years of studies (180 credits, equivalent of a bachelor degree).

Applicants must prove their knowledge of English: English 6/English B from Swedish Upper Secondary School or the equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS.

## Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

### *Knowledge and understanding*

- identify the basic distinctions between and concepts of the public, private, and secret areas in the political sphere in relation to their different cultural and historical contexts.
- explain the historical and cultural conditions as well as infrastructural means for organizing the political spheres and spaces in different regions and periods in the European past and present.

### *Competence and skills*

- formulate and motivate a research problem relevant to the study of public, private, or secret spheres.
- apply concepts and analytical approaches to the study of public space.
- independently produce text in accordance with good academic practice, including proper citation technique and use of references.
- communicate clearly and proficiently in English both orally and in writing.

### *Judgement and approach*

- evaluate ways of organizing political issues in and out of the public, private, and secret spheres.
- scrutinize and critically assess your own and others' assignments, as well as research literature.

## Course content

The course highlights and problematizes, from the point of view of different disciplines, the political significance of the emergence of the public, private, and secret spheres and spaces in European history and present. The contingent division between these three spheres can be considered as one of the fundamental factors in the development of core notions and distinctions between right and obligation, society and state, traditional kingship and modern division of powers. The course traces different contexts for both conceptual and spatial distinction of the public, political, and private spheres from the Greek agora, through republican and imperial Rome, medieval and modern Europe well into the present, when the political division between the public, secret, and private is re-drawn anew. The focus on European public spaces and innovative political practices allows students to critically reflect on the historic and present conditions of access to the

political sphere during its transition into the digital age.

### **Form of teaching**

The form of teaching will be a combination of lectures and compulsory seminars.

*Language of instruction:* English

### **Assessment**

The course is examined through a compulsory final assignment, as well as active participation in seminars.

Students can be asked to complement (e.g. either add to, or re-write) graded assignments and re-submit them. If the student does not re-submit the reworked assignment on time, the student will be failed on the assignment.

A student who is not able to attend a compulsory part of the course can do an alternative assignment. The assignment will be described in the course guide.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

At least five occasions shall be offered the students to pass a course or part of a course (Chapter 6, Section 21 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given. This may not be in conflict with Chapter 6 Section 21 of Higher Education Ordinance.

### **Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

To obtain the Pass grade the student must fulfill all the learning outcomes by active participation in all obligatory parts of the course, and obtain Pass on the written assignment. To obtain Pass with Distinction the work of the student should, besides satisfying the requirements for the Pass grade, show a very good ability to connect theoretical analyses to practical examples, a good, independent analytical ability and that written assignment fulfills high academic standards in terms of structure and language.

**Course evaluation**

The student will be given the opportunity to do a course evaluation. The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.