



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

EU2500 Master's thesis for European Studies, 30 credits

Examensarbete i Europakunskap, 30 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2011-10-12 and was last revised on 2019-02-22 by Department of Political Science to be valid from 2019-02-22, spring semester of 2019.

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 and is a compulsory course.

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

Main field of studies

European Studies

Specialization

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Entry requirements

The requirement for admission to the course is a passed grade on at least two of the core courses in the Master's Programme in European Studies, a total of 20 credits, and a passed grade on one semi-elective course, 15 credits, and a passed grade on one method course at the advanced level, 15 credits, or equivalent. 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

A student who has passed the course will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Independently apply the requirements and standards of social science research in order to complete an original research project relevant to European studies;

Competence and skills

- Independently plan, carry out, and present a medium-scale research project that meets academic standards of reliability, validity, originality, organization and effective communication;
- Creatively, critically and independently identify, formulate and delimit an original scientific question of relevance to European studies;
- Creatively and independently select an appropriate methodological approach to answer a specified social science question;
- Systematically and critically gather, compile empirical data and/or identify and evaluate existing empirical data;
- Determine whether the data are sufficient and appropriate to answer a research question and with what level of confidence;
- Communicate the results, orally and in writing, to different audiences;
- Complete assignments within given time limits;

Judgement and approach

- Critically evaluate the reliability of conclusions and findings of academic research and evaluations;
- Identify and critically assess ethical issues related to research on human behavior.

Course content

Each student will formulate, plan and complete a Master's thesis in a given span of time. Writing the Master's thesis will develop students' ability to plan and manage large projects, and collect and analyze social science data to answer an original research question of relevance to European studies. Each student will be assigned a supervisor for the thesis work. Students will present and defend the thesis at a final seminar, as well as act as a discussant on another student's thesis. In order to facilitate the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the course is organized around a series of working seminars, where students are expected to contribute both with their ideas and work with their own thesis, as well as with their comments on other students' work. The preparation and planning of the Master's thesis start during the fall semester.

Form of teaching

Teaching and instruction takes place in lectures, preparatory seminars, through supervision from an individual supervisor, seminars during the actual writing process, and examining thesis seminars.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Progress on the learning outcomes will be evaluated through the Master's thesis as well as performance at the final seminar, in which students both present and defend their own work as well as thoroughly and constructively evaluate and comment on another student's thesis.

A student who has failed an assignment twice has the right to change examiner, if it is possible. A written application should be sent to the Department.

In cases where a course has been discontinued or major changes have been made a student should be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination occasion) during a time of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

Grades

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

The grade is awarded based on the evaluation of the Master's thesis. To obtain the Pass grade the student must fulfill all the learning outcomes. To obtain Pass with Distinction the thesis should also be characterized by excellent theoretical, methodological and analytical qualities.

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.