



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

SF2221 Global Security and Democracy, 15 credits

Global säkerhet och demokrati, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2007-10-27 and was last revised on 2021-11-23 by School of Global Studies to be valid from 2022-01-17, spring semester of 2022.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: School of Global Studies

Other participating department

Department of Political Science

Position in the educational system

The course is an in-depth course in the second cycle and can be studied as a single subject course.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Master's Programme in Political Science (S2PSC), 2) Master's Programme in International Administration and Global Governance (S2IAG) and 3) Master's Programme in Global Studies (S2GLS)

Main field of studies

Political Science

Global Studies

Specialization

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

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Entry requirements

A completed BA with a minimum of 30 higher education credits in the field of global studies or political science and 15 higher education credits in a core course on advanced level within the field of global studies or in political science, or equivalent competence.

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, or alternatively a bachelor's degree from an education held in English.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- discuss how notions of security and democracy are deployed in current conceptual debates and empirical practices in global politics;
- account for different theoretical approaches in the study of the interrelationships between global security and global democracy;

Competence and skills

- identify and distinguish analytically contemporary challenges to global democracy;
- apply the conceptual perspectives to the study of different issues and events in current global politics;
- identify and formulate adequate research problems and research questions in relation to the discussions and themes addressed in the course;

Judgement and approach

- critically assess strengths and weaknesses of different approaches in the study of global security and democracy.

Course content

The pressing challenges posed by today's global political landscape call for changing notions of both security and democracy. How is it possible to provide security for people, states, regions, the globe, and still attend to the basic fundamentals of democratic principles? Questions like this evoke even more urgency as it becomes increasingly clear that contemporary threats and risks clearly transgress those borders that have been erected to protect, and to distinguish, friend from foe.

This course will address the interlinkages between democracy and security in an ever-changing context. In particular, we will raise a number of conceptual questions as signposts for reflection: What do particular actors mean when deploying the concepts of security and democracy? What diverging views are there on referent objects of security (ranging from the planet, the state, the environment, certain identities to the individual) as well as on the expressions of global democracy (from communitarian, deliberative, to counter-hegemonic, etc.)? What are the conceptual underpinnings mobilized in

arguments against global or transnational normative frameworks? What are the spaces to organize and safeguard our political communities when fundamental understandings of who 'we' are differ from more traditional notions of political subjectivity and community?

Informed by discussions within political theory and international relations theory, the module is organized along the following pillars

- *conceptual perspectives on security and democracy*;
- *the impasse of global security and*
- *global democracy and its discontent*

Form of teaching

Learning activities in the course include lectures, literature seminars, paper feedback seminars as well as group work.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Examination will take the form of a group work report and its presentation (3 hp); oral presentation during, and attendance of, seminars (2 hp), as well as two academic essays (5 hp each).

A student who has taken two exams in a course or part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner. The student needs to contact the department for a new examiner, preferably in writing, and this should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years, after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to placements and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). Presentation and attendance at seminars as well as the group report are marked Pass (G) or Fail (U). The academic essays are marked Pass with distinction (VG), Pass (G) or Fail (U).

In order to receive the grade Pass (G) on the course, the student has to get a Pass grade on all assignments. In order to receive a Pass with distinction (VG) for the whole course, the student has to get a pass with distinction on one of the two academic essays, in addition to the criteria for a Pass grade.

Course evaluation

The course coordinator is responsible for systematically and regularly collecting the students' views of the course, and for making sure that the results of the evaluations in different forms are taken into consideration when developing the course. The results and possible changes to the course will be shared with the students who participated in the evaluation and the next class to take the course.