



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

SK0050 Prospects for Environmental Politics, 7.5 higher education credits

Prospects for Environmental Politics, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2007-06-16 and was last revised on 2015-03-05 by Department of Political Science to be valid from 2015-08-31, autumn semester of 2015.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Political Science

Position in the educational system

The course is an in depth course in Political Science and given as an elective course in the Bachelor's Programme in Political Science and as a single subject course. The course is also given as a single subject course for exchange students.

Main field of studies

Political Science

Specialization

G2F, First Cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

The requirements for admission is a minimum of 60 higher education credits in Social sciences or equivalent. Applicants must prove their knowledge of English: English 6/English B or equivalent.

Learning outcomes

The overarching goal is that students, after completing the course, will have in depth knowledge in the field of environmental science. More specifically, this entails that

- students will be able to describe some analytical approaches within political science, such as public administration, and Swedish and environmental politics in a comparative perspective
- students will have in depth knowledge of theoretical subfields of political science (for example institutional theory, theories of justice, theories of international relations) with an emphasis on politics and policy in environmental issues
- students will be able to plan and complete several research tasks
- students will be able to communicate both orally and in writing after having composed and presented four shorter analytical papers.

Course content

The course consists of four modules, each of which consists of lectures, writing a paper, and a seminar. A description of each of the papers will be provided at the beginning of each module.

- Module 1: Democracy and sustainable development.
- Module 2: Environmental politics and policy at the domestic level.
- Module 3: Swedish environmental politics.
- Module 4: Global environmental politics and security.

The course builds on lectures but also to a large extent on individual study and group discussion and analysis. Each of the course assignments entails analysing relevant material and communicating results orally and in writing.

At each meeting of the course, students will confront central problems related to sustainable development, such as

- how to reconcile the tension between effective environmental policy and the principles of liberal democracy;
- institutional theory (i.e. how different forms of institutionalism understand the relationship between humans and the environment, the importance of formal and informal institutions for effective resource management, the effect of corruption on resource management),
- theories of international politics (i.e. what possibilities do individual countries have to influence each others environmental policy, how can we understand how states behave in international environmental negotiations, what role does the UN have in bringing about sustainable development).

Form of teaching

The course grade will build on written papers and participation in seminars.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

A student who has failed twice has the right to change examiner, unless weighty argument can be adduced. The application must be in writing and shall 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).

Course evaluation

The student will be given the opportunity to do a course evaluation. The results of evaluation will be communicated to previous and incoming students.