



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

SK1135, Swedish Politics in a Comparative Perspective, 15,0 higher education credits

Swedish Politics in a Comparative Perspective, 15.0 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

1. Confirmation

The course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2006-11-14 to be valid from 2007-09-01.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100 %

Department: Department of Political Science

2. Position in the educational system

This is an in depth course in Political Science, and given as a single subject course.

Main field of studies

Political Science

Specialization

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

3. Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course 60 higher education credits preferably in the social sciences or equivalent knowledge is required. English language proficiency must be sufficient for course participation.

4. Course content

The course consists of two pedagogically distinct parts, called Swedish Politics in Comparative Perspective I & II (7.5 higher education credits each).

1. The first part builds on lectures and seminars, both geared toward developing students analytical and communication skills as well as knowledge of various aspects of the Swedish politics and political system. Topics include the Swedish constitution, Swedish representative democracy, state and local administration, characteristics of the Swedish welfare model and gender politics, and environmental and labor policy, as well as more general knowledge regarding different ways to organize a states political life. The comparative perspective is emphasized during the course. In other words, it will be highlighted in what ways Swedish political system diverges from other countries.

2. The second part of the course Swedish Politics in Comparative Perspective II builds on the knowledge base developed in the first but instead focuses on methodology and paper writing. With the help of an advisor, students write an academic paper, which includes the following components: formulating an appropriate topic, finding relevant sources, synthesizing and analyzing empirical and theoretical material, and organizing and communicating the results of analysis in both academic writing and an oral presentation.

5. Learning outcomes

The goals of the course are to provide students with a basic understanding of the Swedish political system and the ability to understand the uses and methods of comparative analysis. After completion of the course, students should have attained skills and competence in the following areas:

- showing knowledge of the main features of Swedish politics and political system, including an understanding of what aspects it shares with other European and non-European nations, as well as what distinguishes Sweden from other countries;
- using theoretical and methodological tools for conducting comparative political analysis;
- formulating a research question and writing an academic paper building on secondary sources;
- presenting arguments and research results both orally and in writing;
- and presenting and receiving feedback on ones own and others work in an effective and constructive manner.

6. Literature

See appendix.

7. Assessment

Student performance is assessed through both oral and written exams. A student who has failed a test twice has the right to change examiner, unless weighty counter argument can be adduced. Applications shall be sent to the board of the institution.

8. Grading scale

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

9. Course evaluation

Written (and where appropriate oral) course evaluation will be offered at the end of teaching (or where appropriate near the final exam). Evaluation results including relevant measures will be posted on the course website.

10. Additional information

Language of instruction: English.



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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

LITERATURE

SK1135, Swedish Politics in a Comparative Perspective, 15 hec

Compulsory literature

Larsson, Torbjörn., & Henry Bäck. (2008) *Governing and Governance in Sweden*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. 304 pages.

Articles etc., approx. 350 pages, will be added. For information see the course guide.

Additional articles/material may be added.