



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

SK1139 Swedish environmental politics in a comparative perspective, 7.5 higher education credits

Svensk miljöpolitik i ett jämförande perspektiv, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Political Science on 2017-02-09 and was last revised on 2017-03-27 to be valid from 2017-12-05, autumn semester of 2017.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Political Science

Position in the educational system

The course is a core course in Political Science and given as a single subject course. It can also be a part of the Programme in Environmental Social Science (SMIL). The course is given as a single subject course for international exchange students.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Program in Environmental Social Science (S1SML), 2) Program in Environmental Social Science (S1SMI) and 3) Program in Political Science (S1STV)

Main field of studies

Political Science

Specialization

G1N, First Cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Entry requirements

General entrance requirements

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- Give an account of the main components of Swedish environmental politics over time and in a comparison with other industrialized countries.
- Describe different aspects of Swedish environmental politics; the historical emergence of new policies to manage environmental degradation, how Swedish environmental politics is currently organized (with a focus on opinion formation, parties and decision-making processes), how policies are
- implemented (with a focus on the Swedish public administration) and, finally, how such policies relate to Sweden's position in the EU and Sweden's role in the international system more broadly.
- - Use a comparison of empirical cases of existing environmental policies to illustrate the process from decision-making to implementation of policies as well as its relation to international aspects.
- Critically assess how environmental politics in Sweden differs in comparison to other settings.

Skills and abilities

- Independently and in group work present different aspects of Swedish environmental politics.
- Critically discuss how the Swedish case differs in comparison to environmental politics in other settings.
- Identify two policies related to Swedish environmental politics which can be used as analytical vehicles for an individual assignment which demonstrates the knowledges from the course.
- Independently write an academic paper on this theme in accordance with good academic practice, including proper citation technique and use of references.

Judgement and approach

Scrutinize and critically assess in writing and orally your own and others assignments.

The course is sustainability focused which means that the content constitutes the course's main focus. At least one of the learning outcomes clearly show that the course content meets one of University of Gothenburg's sustainability criteria.

Course content

The course provides participants with the analytical tools to understand the dynamics of Swedish environmental politics in a comparative perspective. It applies a historical perspective, gives insight to both "input" and "output" sides of the Swedish political system with relevance for environmental politics and, finally, provides insights in how

domestic environmental policies relate to Sweden's role in the EU and beyond in the international arena. The individual assignment focuses on comparing how two environmental policies relate to different layers of the political system in Sweden.

Form of teaching

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Students will be evaluated based on their performance on group work as well as individual assignments. The course will take advantage of interactions between Swedish and international students to form groups for a joint assignment in the form of a case study. There are two forms of assessment on this course, which must be completed in order to receive a Pass. Students will be required to 1) submit a written group assignment and to make an oral seminar presentation of the group assignment (2,5 hec), as well as 2) submit a written essay at the end of the course (5 hec).

Completion of examined assignments are permitted. If the student does not submit the completion on time, the student will be failed on the assignment.

A student who is not able to attend the compulsory oral seminar presentation 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).

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.

Grades

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

To obtain the Pass grade, the student must receive a Pass on both forms of assessment (group work assignment, including the oral presentation and written essay). To obtain Pass with Distinction for the entire course, a student must receive a Pass with Distinction on the essay. The student should show a high level of independence in

relation to the course literature. The student must, besides showing a good knowledge of the content of this literature, have an excellent ability to reflect critically on Swedish environmental politics in a comparison with other contexts that demonstrate high academic standards in terms of structure and language.

Course evaluation

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