



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 2023-06-20 by Department of Political Science to be valid from 2023-08-28, autumn semester of 2023.

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 European studies 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 question of relevance to European studies;
- Systematically and critically gather, compile empirical material and/or identify and evaluate existing empirical material;
- Determine whether the material is sufficient and appropriate to confidently answer a research question;
- Communicate the results, orally and in writing, to different audiences;
- Complete assignments within given time limits;
- Independently produce text in accordance with good academic practice, including proper citation technique and use of references.

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.

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 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, act as a discussant on another student's thesis, as well as comment on other students' theses according to teachers' instructions.

In order to facilitate the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the course is organized around a series of working seminars, where students 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 take place in lectures, preparatory seminars, through supervision by 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, comment on another student's thesis, and comments on other students' work.

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 seminars will be given the possibility to attend seminars on a later occasion.

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.

At least five occasions shall be offered the students to pass a course or part of a course (Chapter 6, Section 21 of Higher Education Ordinance).

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.

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.

Additional information

Additional costs in relation to the course are the responsibility of the student.

The Department of Political Science follows the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (UD) travel recommendations for travel abroad. This means that if the Ministry of Foreign Affairs advises against (all or unnecessary trips) travel to a specific country, region or city, that advice applies to all study-related trips. Hence, a student's thesis will not be examined if the student proceeds with data-collection or writing his/her thesis in a country/region/city that the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs advice against travel to, at the start of the course.