



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

SK1137 Swedish Politics in a Comparative Perspective, 7.5 credits

Svensk politik i ett jämförande perspektiv, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Political Science on 2016-11-10 and was last revised on 2023-12-21 to be valid from 2024-01-15, spring semester of 2024.

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 in the first cycle and 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 credits in Social sciences or equivalent. Applicants must prove their knowledge of English: English 6/English B or equivalent.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- Describe and understand the key overarching features of the Swedish Political System.
- Describe and understand a selection of key Swedish policy areas, which are

considered to be – or to have been – unique in a comparative perspective.

- Conduct in-depth level comparisons where the Swedish political system is set in a comparative perspective with a special emphasis on different types of liberal democratic models
- Conduct in-depth level comparisons where selected Swedish policy areas are set in a comparative perspective.

Competence and skills

- Apply in-depth level comparative analytical perspectives on the Swedish political system.
- Write in-depth level academic texts, with appropriate referencing.
- Clearly state ideas and arguments concerning key aspects of the Swedish political system in a comparative perspective in English, both orally and in writing.
- Independently produce in-depth level academic texts in accordance with good academic practice, including proper citation technique and use of references.

Judgement and approach

- Understand and critically evaluate, at an in-depth level, the academic debate regarding the Swedish political system in a comparative perspective.
- Within given time frames submit set oral and written assignments.

Course content

The course comprises 7.5 Higher Education Credits. Two overarching aspects are problematized. First, the Swedish political system is set in a comparative perspective by relating general features of the Swedish system to academic debates about different models of Liberal Democracy. Topics include the Swedish Constitution, executive-legislative relationships, the party system, electoral system, Swedish representative democracy and state and local administration features. Second, a selection of policy areas (a minimum of two and a maximum of four) where Sweden is considered to be – or to have been – unique in a comparative perspective will be problematized.

Form of teaching

The course contains lectures and seminars. Lectures as well as seminars are utilized regarding both overarching aspects with a minimum of one seminar per aspect.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Student performance is assessed through both oral and written assignments. The course comprises 7.5 credits and contains four seminars with compulsory attendance and oral

activity, one group-work assignment with oral presentation, two short paper assignments and a longer essay assignment. The seminar with group assignment will correspond to 1.5 credits, the two seminars with a paper assignment comprise 1 credit each, the seminar with a longer essay assignment corresponds to 4 credits.

A student who is not able to attend a compulsory part of the course can do an alternative assignment. The assignment will be described in the course guide.

In case an assignment has been graded a 'fail' (Underkänd) the student is allowed to submit an improved assignment. Should this submission be late or fall below the 'pass' (Godkänd) criteria, the fail grade will be confirmed.

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).

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 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. This may not be in conflict with Chapter 6 Section 21 of Higher Education Ordinance.

Grades

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

To obtain the G course grade the student must meet all the stated learning outcomes and pass all exams. To obtain the VG course grade, the student must receive a VG for the essay assignment and G among the rest of the assignments (no U allowed).

For a pass grade (G), the student's work shall demonstrate the ability to link theoretical analyzes to empirical results, an independent analytical ability, and that the written assignments shall meet the basic academic requirements in terms of structure and language. For a pass with distinction grade (VG), the student's work shall demonstrate a very good ability to link theoretical analyzes to empirical results, a good independent analytical ability, and that the written assignments meet high academic requirements in terms of structure and language.

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.

