



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

SK1138 Environmental politics in theory and practice, 7.5 credits

Miljöpolitik i teori och praktik, 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 2023-06-20 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 a core course in Political Science and given as a single subject course. It can also be a part of the Programme in Political Science and the Programme in Environmental Social Science (SMIL). The course is also 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

- Describe challenges to environmental policy based on theoretical approaches within political science.
- Describe how factors at different levels (individual, national and international level) affect the design and implementation of environmental policy

Competence and skills

- Explain and reproduce various political science theoretical orientations and how these can be applied to environmental policy challenges
- Independently carry out problem solving and political science analysis of environmental policy challenges.
- Independently write academic texts in accordance with good academic practice, including proper citation technique and use of references.
- Communicate clearly and proficiently, both orally and in writing

Judgement and approach

- Be able to discuss basic elements from different theoretical approaches, be able to compare them with one another, and to apply them to environmental policy challenges.
- Be able to participate in discussions actively and independently with fellow students regarding the various political science theories included in the course.

The course is sustainability-focused, which means that at least one of the learning outcomes clearly shows that the course content meets at least one of the University of Gothenburg's confirmed sustainability criteria. The content also constitutes the course's main focus.

Course content

The overarching goal of the course is to develop a deep theoretical understanding in order to analyze environmental policy challenges from the perspective of political science.

The course is based on different themes. Each thematic area includes an introductory lecture, independent study, and analysis/reflection in the form of a discussion seminar.

The student will also prepare a written assignment to be presented and discussed during one of the four seminars. Finally, students will demonstrate their understanding of the field of environmental politics in an exam.

Students are expected to conduct applied analysis and independent problem-solving throughout the course.

The course is suitable for students who are preparing upcoming theses within the field of environmental policy, but it is also aimed at students who are interested in gaining a

broad, research-based understanding of environmental policy in general.

Form of teaching

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars.

Language of instruction: English and Swedish

This course may be offered in Swedish or English. If the course is held in Swedish, certain literature or lectures may be held in English.

Assessment

The course is examined through mandatory seminars, a written assignment, and an exam.

Compensatory 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).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for study support for students with disabilities, the examiner may, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, 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 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 receive a grade of Pass for the course, students must have Passed all required components of the course. This entails participation in all required seminars, a grade of Pass on the written assignment, and a grade of Pass on the exam.

To pass the course with distinction, a high degree of independence related to the

recommended course literature is required. In addition to having a good knowledge of the contents of the course literature, the student must also show that they can make own contributions to the discussion and conduct a relevant analysis. Furthermore, the student is required to be able to evaluate and discuss how political science perspectives, research results and knowledge covered in the course, can contribute to solutions to current environmental policy challenges.

For the grade VG, a VG of at least 50% of the course points is required.

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.