



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

SK1223 Further Studies in Democracy, 15 credits

Tematisk fördjupning, 15 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2008-05-29 and was last revised on 2019-12-06 by Department of Political Science to be valid from 2020-03-26, spring semester of 2020.

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. The course is an elective course in the second semester in the Bachelor's Program in Political and is also offered as a freestanding course. The course is also an elective course in the European Studies Program.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) European Studies Program (S1EUR), 2) European Studies (SEURM) and 3) Program in Political Science (S1STV)

Main field of studies

Political Science

Specialization

G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

A prerequisite for this course is that the student has received a passing grade in the course SK1113 Institutions and Actors in Political Systems (15 credits) or has equivalent knowledge.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the research literature related to political science research questions.
- Understand various political science theories on a deeper level, and their relevance to problems regarding the study of politics.

Competence and skills

- Seek out and identify research literature that is central to answering political science research questions.
- Compile and organise research results and theories that are relevant to the greater theoretical perspectives of political science research questions.
- Formulate proposals regarding research questions concerning the study of politics.
- Independently produce text in accordance with good academic practice, including proper citations technique and the use of references.
- Communicate clearly and proficiently in Swedish both orally and in written form.

Judgement and approach

- Evaluate and critique research results and theories that investigate political science research questions.
- Based on the discussion of existing political science research, distinguish a new research question that can build on political science research.

Course content

This course should prepare students for future independent thesis and investigative work. The primary aim is for students to learn how to identify, compile, and evaluate current political science research. This course should also provide students with specific knowledge on a research issue of their own choosing.

This course begins with students choosing a political science research question that interests them. Thereafter, students should identify major scientific texts that answer their research question. The research results and theories from the texts are then summarised in a research overview that offers the best answer that political science has for the question being asked.

Furthermore, the course should develop the students' ability to assess political science scholarly research materials. For example, students should compare conflicting statements with one another and critique and evaluate their selections, definitions, and

operationalizations found in the scientific texts. conflicting statements with one another and criticise and evaluate selection, definitions and operationalisations that occur in scientific texts. Finally, based on their research summaries and critical analyses, the students should propose a concrete research plan aimed at continuing the research into the political science problem area that they have chosen to focus on. This research plan should be able to form the basis of a student's future thesis work.

This course focuses on student writing and discussion concerning the research overview and the research plan. The work takes place in recurrent dialogue with one and the same teacher as follows the students in this development.

Form of teaching

The teaching consists of lectures and group seminars, in which a teacher follows students through the course. The course includes two longer written components.

Language of instruction: Swedish

The course is offered in Swedish but literature and lectures in English can occur.

Assessment

The course is assessed through written and oral assignments. The two written components of the course are assessed alongside seminars where students defend their own work and serve as opponents for their classmates.

Students can be asked to re-work graded assignments and re-submit them. If the student does not re-submit the reworked assignment on time, the student will be failed on the assignment.

Student who has not could be present at a compulsory component can make an alternative assignment. The assignment should 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).

At least five occasions should be offered the students to go through test to pass a course or part of a course (HF 6 chapters section 21).

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, Higher Education Ordinance.

Grades

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

To achieve a Pass (G), the student must have passed both the research overview and the research plan. To achieve a Pass with Distinction (VG), the student must have received a grade of Pass with Distinction (VG) on at least one of the written components, and a Pass (G) on the other.

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.