



## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

### **SK1523 Dissertation, 15 credits**

Examensarbete i statsvetenskap, 15 högskolepoäng

*First Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2006-11-14 and was last revised on 2022-02-22 by Department of Political Science to be valid from 2022-02-22, spring semester of 2022.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* Department of Political Science

#### **Position in the educational system**

The course is an in-depth course at first cycle level. The thesis is intended as a degree project for a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. The course is compulsory in the Program in Political Science. It can also be given as a stand alone course.

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

#### *Main field of studies*

Political Science

#### *Specialization*

G2E, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements, contains degree project for BA/BSc

#### **Entry requirements**

Entry requirements for the course are the completion of the courses SK1113 Institutions and Actors in Political Systems (15 credits), SK1124 Political Theory (7.5 credits), SK1125 International Relations (7.5 credits), SK1214 Democracy and democratization in a comparative perspective (15 credits) and either one of the courses SK1223 Further Studies in Democracy (15 credits) or SK1224 Prospects for Environmental Politics (15 credits) or the equivalent knowledge. Finally, at least 15 passed credits in social sciences method or the equivalent knowledge are required.

## Learning outcomes

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

### *Knowledge and understanding*

- independently plan, carry out and write a scientific study with all parts of the scientific process; problem formulation via theory, earlier research, issues, design, method, result presentation and concluding of the the scientific process

### *Competence and skills*

- independently plan, design and carry out a research project that meets the academic requirements regarding scholarly work and formal guidelines
- independently formulate and delimit a scientific question of relevance to the discipline Political Science which demonstrates a creative and analytic ability
- independently select an appropriate methodological approach to answer a specific scientific question systematically gather and compile empirical data and/or evaluate existing empirical data, sources or secondary literature
- independently draw conclusions on the basis of the completed study
- independently produce text in accordance with good academic practice, including proper citation technique and use of references
- communicate clearly and proficiently in Swedish both orally and in writing

### *Judgement and approach*

- within given time frames, prepare for and publicly discuss and examine another student's degree project
- defend a position in a scientific discussion orally
- independently evaluate and reflect on one's own and others' research projects and knowledge development

## Course content

During this course you will learn you to write and defend an independent scientific thesis. You will learn how to independently plan, carry out and present scientific research. You will defend your conclusions at a mandatory oral seminar, where you will also critically, constructively and pedagogically examine others' theses. You should display a critical and scientific approach in all different parts of the course.

## Form of teaching

The teaching in the course differs from most other courses that it to the very largest part consists of independent work. The teaching mainly consists of individual supervision of an experienced researcher/teachers. The course also has a course introduction where information about the thesis work is given.

*Language of instruction:* Swedish and English

The course is given in Swedish but literature in English can occur.

### **Assessment**

The course is assessed through written and oral assignments. The degree project is mainly assessed at a seminar where the independently written thesis is discussed. There are however two additional parts of the examination. At each seminar, a student evaluate and comment on another student's thesis. It is compulsory to have evaluated and commented on another student's thesis. It is furthermore compulsory to attend at the seminars in the course.

It means all in all that each student should write a thesis, discuss his/hers thesis orally at a seminar, publicly evaluate and comment on another thesis on another seminar and go on all the other seminars. Since the student sometimes is prevented from being present at some of the seminars, there is a minimum number of seminars that a student should go on to obtain a passing grade. As a minimum, a student who writes his degree project should go to 8 thesis seminars at undergraduate level (including the presentation of his own thesis and the evaluation and comment on a fellow students thesis). If there is not "enough" theses seminar at the right level (Bachelor's, Master's (60 credits) or Master's (120 credits)) to attend, the student may replace them with thesis seminars on other levels.

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.

If a student who has failed twice on the same assessing component want change of examiner before the next examination session, such a request should be submitted in writing to the department and should be approved if there are not special reasons on the other hand (HF 6 chapters section § 22).

If a student has obtained recommendation from University of Gothenburg about special educational support, examiner can, in case it is compatible with the aim of the course and provided that not unreasonable resources are required determine to give the student an adapted examination or alternative examination format.

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 the case where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student should normally be guaranteed access to at least three examination sessions

(including the regular examination session) during a period of at least one year, but at the most two years after the course has been discontinued/changed.

### Grades

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

The examiner assess the thesis in relation to the criteria below.

Grading criteria	Fail	Pass	Pass with distinction
Research problem	A research problem is lacking, or does not drive the implementation of the project and thesis	A research problem drives the implementation of the project and thesis	A research problem clearly drives the implementation of the project and thesis.
Theory and previous research	The link to theory and previous research is obscure. The research problem is not specified.	Theory and earlier research specify the research problem and/or hypotheses so that it leads to concrete issues.	Theory and earlier research specify the research problem and/or hypotheses clearly, so that it leads to concrete issues.
Research questions and/or hypotheses	The study and analysis is not based on the research questions and/or hypotheses.	The research questions and/or hypotheses form the basis for the study and analysis.	The research questions and/or hypotheses, are clearly the basis for the study and analysis.
Design and methods	The design and methods used in the thesis are not sufficiently described, discussed and justified.	The design and methods used in the thesis are described, discussed and justified.	The design and methods used in the thesis are clearly described, discussed and justified.

Data	Relevant data or a relevant amount of ideas are not used to answer the research questions, or the described methods are not applied on relevant material or relevant amount of ideas.	The research questions are answered, by means of applying the described method on relevant material or relevant amount of ideas.	The research questions are clearly answered, by means of applying the described method on relevant material or relevant amount of ideas
Results and conclusions	The research questions are not answered or the answers are not related to the research problem.	The research questions are given answers, which are related to the research problem.	The research questions are given clear answers, which are clearly related to the research problem.
Analysis	The student does not demonstrate a reflective scientific and has a arguing approach.	The student demonstrates a reflective scientific and has a arguing approach.	The student demonstrates clearly a reflective scientific and has a arguing approach.
Language use	The language use is insufficient.	The language use is sufficient.	The language use is clearly very sufficient

If the thesis does not satisfy all points above, the thesis may be revised (if there are minor deficiencies), and thereafter the grade pass if the errors are corrected or the grade fail (if there are major deficiencies which remains after the residual task has been remedied).

At the end of the seminar the student will be given his/her grade orally by the examiner. The grade is set by seminar chair (examiner) in collaboration with a co-examiner. As complement to the oral grade, seminar chair fills in an assessment sheet, that summarises the deficiencies and merits of the thesis and to what extent the thesis has satisfied the criteria above.

**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 advises against travel to, at the start of the course.