



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

SK2121 Political Science Analysis, 15 credits

Statsvetenskaplig analys, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2006-11-14 and was last revised on 2018-08-24 by Department of Political Science to be valid from 2018-09-03, autumn semester of 2018.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Political Science

Position in the educational system

The course is a compulsory course in the Master's Programme in Political Science. The course is also given as a single subject course. The course is a core course in the second cycle.

Main field of studies

Political Science

Specialization

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

A minimum of 60 credits in first cycle Political Science (or equivalent) of which at least 30 credits from in depth courses in the first cycle (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

- Have in-depth as well as broad general knowledge of the main Political Science research areas
- Have gained insights of such a character that will make possible in-depth understanding and analysis of various Political Science problematics and issues by means of contending analytical perspectives and research methods

Competence and skills

- Independently, at an in-depth level, organise, write and present orally and in writing short research reports with topics from the various Political Science research areas
- Independently produce text in accordance with good academic practice, including proper citation technique and use of references
- Communicate clearly and proficiently in English both orally and in writing

Judgement and approach

- At an in-depth level understand and critically evaluate research based on the main Political Science research

Course content

During the last couple of decades Political Science has developed into a mature academic subject, which has led to further specialization into various sub disciplines or research areas (e.g. Political Behavior, Comparative Politics, Public Administration, Political Theory and International Politics). At the same time there has been increased integration too between the sub disciplines, both theoretically and analytically as well as methodologically. The course aims to make the students aware of the subject's complexity. This aim will be achieved by guiding the students to research classics from the various research areas as well as to current research. The course will apply different analytical perspectives on the various research areas and make the students aware of different research strategies and research methods. Throughout the course, students will gain skills in critically reflected oral and written academic presentation through problem-based research overview assignments.

Form of teaching

The course is an in-house course and combines lectures and seminars for five different research areas.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The course is examined through one discussion paper and four research overviews, one for each subfield included in the course. In addition to discussion paper and the research reports the student must make one oral presentation of his/her research report and actively participate in all five compulsory seminars.

The first discussion paper and seminar discussion are awarded 2 credits and graded with Pass (G) or Fail (U).

Each of the four research seminar papers are graded Fail (U), Pass (G), Pass with Distinction (VG) and awarded 3 credits each.

The oral presentation earns an additional 1 credits and is graded Fail (U), Pass (G), Pass with Distinction (VG).

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.

Completion of examined assignments are permitted in case of grade fail (U) and is specified by the responsible teacher. If the student does not submit the completion on time, the student will be failed on the assignment.

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).

In order to pass the course (G), the student needs to pass all the assignments. In order to pass the course with distinction (VG), either at least 3 of the reports must have the grade VG and the rest of the assignments have the grade G, or two of the reports must have the grade VG and the oral presentation the grade VG and the rest of the assignments have G.

To obtain the Pass grade the student must fulfill all the learning outcomes. To obtain Pass with distinction the work of the student should show a very good ability to connect

theoretical analyses to empirical outcomes, a good, independent analytical ability and that written assignments fulfill high academic standards in term 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.