



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

SK2512 Master Thesis, 15 credits

Magisteruppsats i statsvetenskap, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2006-12-20 and was last revised on 2021-02-05 by Department of Political Science to be valid from 2021-03-25, spring semester of 2021.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Political Science

Position in the educational system

The course Master Thesis is an in-depth course in Political Science.

The thesis is intended as a degree project for a Master's degree in Political Science.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in Political Science (S2PSC)

Main field of studies

Political Science

Specialization

A1E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)

Entry requirements

Entry requirements for the course are the completion of the course SK2121 Political Science Analysis (15 credits) and either the course SF2321 Applied Statistical Analysis (15 credits) or SF2322 Applied Quantitative Research Methods (15 credits) or SF2323 Applied Qualitative Research Methods, problems and design (15 credits) or SF2324 Introduction to Applied Research Design and Quantitative Research Methods for Social Scientists (15 credits) as well as a Bachelor's degree. 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,

or equivalent.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- Independently and in depth be able to apply scientific theoretical perspectives and methods in order to complete an original research project relevant to the discipline Political Science.

Competence and skills

- Independently plan and carry out a research project that meets the academic requirements regarding scholarly work and formal guidelines.
- Formulate and delimit a scientific question of relevance to the discipline Political Science which demonstrates a creative and analytic ability.
- 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.
- To, within given time limits, produce a written report and orally present and defend the scientific body of work.
- To, within given time limits, prepare for and publicly discuss and examine another student's degree project as well as participate in discussions regarding other students' degree projects.
- 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

- To assess ethical issues related to the research and in seminars actively contribute to scientific discussions.
- Independently, systematically and pedagogically, critique and evaluate the reliability of conclusions and findings of academic research and evaluations.

Course content

During this course you will learn to write and defend an independent, in-depth scientific thesis. You will learn how to plan, carry out and present scientific research which incorporates all stages of the scientific process: from problem formulation to theory, scientific questions of relevance, method, presentation and conclusions. You will defend your conclusions, using scientific arguments, at a mandatory oral seminar, where you

will also critically, constructively and pedagogically examine others theses in the same scientific manner. You should display a critical and scientific approach, in all these elements, as well as use clear, precise and expressive language when making your arguments. Teaching consists principally of tutorials led by experienced researchers.

Form of teaching

To achieve course learning outcomes the course is on one part comprised of individual supervision and feedback and on the other part a series of lectures and seminars where all students are expected to contribute with their own projects and ideas as well as give each other constructive feedback and critique.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Progress on the learning outcomes will be evaluated through the Master's thesis as well as performance at the final seminar, in which students present and defend their own work, and thoroughly and constructively evaluate and comment on another student's thesis. In addition to this the student is expected to participate actively in the discussions and evaluation of other students' theses.

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.

In addition to the ordinary examination occasion, there will be a renewed examination date in March and August and end of each semester, if needed.

A student who has taken two exams in a course or part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner. The student needs to contact the department for a new examiner, preferably in writing, and this should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may 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 the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years, after the course

has ceased/been changed.

Grades

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

To obtain the Pass grade the student must fulfill all the learning outcomes.

To obtain Pass with Distinction the thesis should also be characterized by excellent theoretical, methodological and analytical qualities.

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 thesis writing 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 advice against travel to, at the start of the course.