



Faculty of Social Sciences

FKVA22, Peace and Conflict Studies: Level 2, 30 credits

Freds- och konfliktvetenskap: Fortsättningskurs, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2012-04-12 (Dnr S 2012/159) and was last revised on 2024-01-31. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2024-01-31 and is valid from the autumn semester 2024.

General information

The course constitutes the studies of the other semester in the main field of study peace and conflict studies. The course is given as single subject course.

Language of instruction: Swedish and English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

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

Learning outcomes

After finishing the course, the students should

Knowledge and understanding

show advanced knowledge of central issues and research results in peace and conflict studies show advanced and practical knowledge of methods and technologies in peace and conflict studies as well as its importance for research results

Competence and skills

demonstrate the ability to formulate an analytical problem about war and peace and choose and use relevant tools actively to solve this problem demonstrate the ability to compile and communicate result of a larger learning process efficiently in both written and oral form within given time frames, demonstrate the ability to evaluate and review studies critically made of others, demonstrate the ability to carry out relevant information searches, be able to evaluate information and master reference management

demonstrate the ability to reflect on and be responsible for his or her own work and learning process,

demonstrate the ability to in a constructive way be able to be participating in a joint learning process.

Judgement and approach

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Course content

Module 1 Conflict patterns in transition (7,5 credits)

The aim of the course module is to provide a basic orientation regarding the development of conflict patterns after the end of the Cold War, and the theoretical development regarding security, peace, and conflict. In the course three central concepts in peace and conflict studies are discussed: peace, conflict, and security in relation to today's internationalized conflict patterns. The development over time of the concept of security is introduced and related to different empirical contexts. The course also problematizes the concept of conflict and applies different theorizations of conflict on contemporary conflicts. Current national and international patterns of conflict are discussed and related to relevant contemporary global processes and trends such as environmental security, new technology, and non-violent resistance. Finally, the peace concept is introduced and discussed from different perspectives and in relation to contemporary processes of reconciliation, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding.

Module 2 Democracy, state building and peace building (7,5 credits)

The module treats the question of how political democratization processes and state building processes are related to long-term peace building. The possibilities for long-term peace building, or the risks for re-ignited conflicts, are often directly related to political, social and economic transformation process. These linked processes are discussed and analysed in terms of both structural and institutional aspects, and the role that external and internal actors play. Both historical and current examples are treated. Questions discussed are What does the long-term peace building consist of? How is economic growth and social equality related to peace building? What is the relationship between democratisation and long-term conflict management? What is the role of external actors in these processes? These questions are treated based on theoretical and policy-oriented perspectives.

Module 3 The environment in peace and conflict (7,5 credits)

This course segment deals with the importance of natural resources and the environment for peace and conflict. The fight over natural resources is a common cause of conflict, affecting a large share of all conflicts in the world. On top of that, the effects of environmental and climate change are already and increasingly so being felt around the world, including through rising temperatures, water scarcity, weather variability, and biodiversity loss, among others. These changes are intertwined with every aspect of human life, impacting human health, mobility, and livelihoods. Although environmental issues and climatic change can affect all people, these issues pose particular challenges for conflict-affected communities. Thus, environmental issues hold implications for both the causes of conflict, but also present opportunities for building peace. This course explores the relationship between the environment in conflict dynamics, peacebuilding practices, and social and economic factors through relevant theories as well as examples and case studies. Key questions to explore

include: how do environmental issues impact conflict, and how does war impact the environment? What is the role of the environment in peacebuilding? How will climate change impact conflict and peace? This course invites students to learn from and contribute to this field by considering the effects of environmental issues and implications of climate change on efforts toward sustainable peace.

Module 4 Paper and methods (7,5 credits)

In the module, the students work in pairs and write a thesis in which they get to develop the ability to independently apply methods and address research questions in the field of political science. This implies that the students in writing and orally present a thesis as well as actively participate in the review of other students' thesis work. The topic for the thesis is chosen in consultation with supervisor. The teaching consists of introductory lecture about method, plan and thesis seminars, education in computer-aided information retrieval and supervision. The hours for supervision are restricted to the semester for which the student was initially registered. Exceptions can be made if there are valid reasons.

Course design

The teaching is given as lectures, supervision, teaching sessions as well as seminars and group work. All teaching assumes that the student participates actively. The student should to the lectures have prepared reviews- and analysis assignments according to instructions. Compulsory participation is required in seminars.

Assessment

The examination of the modules 1 and 3 is arranged partly in the form of tasks during the time of the module, partly through home exam at the end of respective module. Module 2 is examined partly through assignments during the course and partly through an oral exam at the end of the module. Module 4 is assessed through written and oral presentation of a thesis as well as through active participation in the review of other students' thesis work. The thesis should be registered in open access database on server belonging to Lund's university. Each student determines their own level of publication. In connection with the course, three examination sessions are offered: one regular examination and two re-examination.

Compensation or an alternative date for compulsory modules is offered to students who, through no fault of their own, such as accident, sudden illness or similar events, have not been able to complete the compulsory module. This also applies to students who have missed classes due to a position of trust as a student representative.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

As grade, one of the terms A is used, B, C, D, E or failed. The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. Grade for failed results is denoted with failed.

The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the

student must have shown unacceptable results.

For course modules 1 and 3, the final grade is determined by the written examination. For module 2, the grade is determined by a combination of the various assignments included in the module and the oral examination. For course module 4 the final grade is determined by the thesis that is examined at the final seminar. The grade for the whole course is determined by the aggregation of the grades of the segments that together constitute the course. The grades A-E are transformed into numerical values that are divided by the number of courses modules and rounded off according to mathematical principals.

Entry requirements

For admission to the course, completed course requirements are required extensive at least 30 credits in peace and conflict studies or the equivalent.

Further information

This course replaces FKVA21, Peace and conflict studies: intermediate level, 30 credits.