



Faculty of Social Sciences

STVC69, Political Science: Comparative International Systems, 7.5 credits

Statsvetenskap: Jämförande internationella system, 7,5 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 2014-06-25 to be valid from 2014-09-01, autumn semester 2014.

General Information

This course is offered to undergraduate and exchange students at Lund University.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Political Science

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall demonstrate

Knowledge and understanding

- an understanding of the characteristics of different types of international systems
- an understanding of how methods drawn from historical research, linguistics and philosophy can be used to analyze international relations

Competence and skills

- the ability to formulate a research problem in the area covered by the course, and to use concepts and arguments from the course literature in order to analyze this problem

- the ability to contribute to a common learning environment and group dynamic aspects of learning.

Course content

International relations is usually discussed as the history of the so called "Westphalian" system. This is the international system established in Europe in the wake of the Treaty of Westphalia, 1648. The Westphalian system is based on state sovereignty, on anarchical relations between states, and on constant threats of war. From this perspective the history of international relations is the story of how the Westphalian system gradually expanded to take over the world.

And yet, historically speaking, there have been several other international systems that were not based in Europe, and which are not best characterized by sovereignty, anarchy and war. This course focuses on the most prominent of these alternatives: the Sinocentric international system, the Mongols and the Arabic international systems. The course also covers the international systems of South-east Asia, Japan, Africa, pre-Columbian America and the Pacific Ocean. By discussing the logic and nature of these alternatives, the course provides a history of international relations from a non-European point of view.

Course design

The course combines lectures and seminars. Students are expected to be familiar with assigned reading and to be able to discuss it in class. Attendance at seminars is compulsory unless there are special grounds. An alternative form or date for compulsory components is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed teaching because of activities as a student representative.

Assessment

Students are assessed by way of active participation in lectures and seminars, and by authoring and individually written research paper. (The paper can serve as a preparation for students who will write a bachelor thesis on a topic covered by the course). In addition to the regular examination, two extra examinations will be offered each term. Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Within a year of the end of the course, two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail.

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.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the student must have the equivalence of one year (60 credits) of coursework in Political Science.

Subcourses in STVC69, Political Science: Comparative International Systems

Applies from H14

1401 Course Paper, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A