

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2016-03-16 to be valid from 2016-03-16, autumn semester 2016.

General Information

This is a course in Political Science that is offered to first-cycle 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, students shall demonstrate

Knowledge and understanding

- knowledge of the emergence of the state as a form of political organization
- knowledge of the development of the international system over time
- knowledge of research problems, theoretical traditions, and methods in the study of the emergence of the state and the development of the state system

Competence and skills

- the ability to apply these theories and methods in a critical way in analyses of the topic covered by the course
- the ability to present analysis in written and oral form that corresponds to academic standards
- the ability to take responsibility for their learning process throughout the entire course by engaging actively in group work, seminars and individual assignments.

Course content

Despite globalization and the so-called "retreat of the state", nation-states are still the dominant actors of the current international system. Territorial states continue to be the main wielders of coercive resources; they represent the ultimate jurisdiction of political authority, and they define the legal bases of the capitalist global economy.

This course explores the evolution of states as units of political organization from a long-term and interdisciplinary perspective. In particular, the course combines perspectives from comparative politics and international relations to analyze three general questions:

- 1) What caused the emergence and diffusion of states as a form of political organization?

- 2) What explains the various functions that states have served over time?
- 3) How do states relate with one another and what are their effects on the structure of international systems?

As we address these questions, we will touch on issues related to security and conflict, political economy, and international organizations.

Course design

The course consists of a series lectures and seminars. Attendance at seminars is mandatory. Students who miss a seminar will have to make up for their absence by an assignment.

Assessment

Assessment is based on active participation in seminars and group work, and on an individually written course paper. In addition to the regular examination, two extra examinations will be organised each time the course is offered.

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 equivalent of one year of coursework (60 credits) in Political Science.

Subcourses in STVC73, Political Science: State Making and the Origins of the International System

Applies from H16

1601 Course paper, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A