

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2017-03-15 and was last revised on 2017-03-15. The revised syllabus applies from 2017-08-28, autumn semester 2017.

General Information

Main field: Political Science

The course is offered to students at the undergraduate level and to 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

After completing the course, the student should be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

knowledge and understanding of research problems, theories and methods in the comparative study of local government in an international context.

Competence and skills

the ability to apply theories, methods and concepts in a critical way in the analysis of multiple aspects of local government

the ability to reflect on methodological approaches and issues that are relevant to the scientific analysis of local government in a comparative perspective

the ability to present written and oral analyses of local government in accordance with academic standards

the ability to take responsibility for the learning process throughout the course by participating actively in group work, seminars and individual assignments

Judgement and approach

the ability to reflect on methodological approaches and problems relevant for the comparative analyses of local politics.

Course content

This course focuses on local politics and administration in democratic systems in a comparative perspective. The approach compares the organizing principles and primary activities of the local public sector as well as relationships between the public sector and other actors at the local level. Furthermore, we compare how opportunities for citizen participation are organized within different European systems at the local level. We problematize, among other things, the autonomy of local government with respect to governance, control and organization. Broad trends in current research on urbanization, management reforms and demographic changes will be considered. The course raises principle and normative issues of democracy, power and control. How autonomous are the local governments in practice, what is their official mandate and how autonomous should they be in order to be able to solve the challenges they face?

Course design

The course is based on cooperation with universities in Europe. Teaching will take place in the form of combined lectures and seminars at the department of political science at Lund University and, through a web-based collaboration with European universities in the form of recorded lectures, interactive elements between students and a final video conference.

Participation in all seminar activities is mandatory. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

Assessment

The course is assessed by oral presentations and two written assignments. The oral presentations correspond to 2,5 credits. The two written assignments correspond to 2,5 credits each.

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses that have ended during that school year. Two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the end of the course. 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 oral presentations are graded with Pass or Fail. The written assignments are graded on the scale A-F. The highest grade is denoted by A and the lowest score for passing the course is E. Failure to meet the compulsory criteria of the course is designated by Fail.

The grade for the entire course consists of the average grade of the two written assignments (A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, E = 1). In order to pass the course the student must at least an E for the written assignments and Pass for the oral presentations.

Student performance is assessed based on the learning outcomes outlined above. For an E grade, the student should show a sufficient result. For the grade D, the student should demonstrate a satisfactory result. For the grade C, the student should show a good result. For grade B, the student should show a very good result. And finally, for grade A, the student shall demonstrate an excellent result.

These distinctions will be discussed orally in more detail in the first course lecture.

Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires completion of other political science courses that amount to 1-60 credits.

Subcourses in STVC75, Political Science: Local Government in a
Comparative Perspective

Applies from H17

1701 Course paper, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A