



Faculty of Social Sciences

## STVK02, Political Science: Bachelor's Course, 30 credits

*Statsvetenskap: Kandidatkurs, 30 högskolepoäng*

First Cycle / Grundnivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2012-04-04 and was last revised on 2021-06-16. The revised syllabus applies from 2021-08-31, autumn semester 2021.

### General Information

The course constitutes the third semester studies in the subject of political science. The course can be read as a freestanding course or in programme according to programme syllabus. The course is given in Swedish and English.

*Language of instruction:* English and Swedish

*Main field of studies*

Political Science

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

G2E, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements, contains degree project for BA/BSc

### Learning outcomes

After finishing the course, the students should

#### Knowledge and understanding

- show advanced knowledge of the different philosophies of science in the study of political science and about problems, theorisings and research results in one of the core areas of the political science

- show advanced and practical knowledge of political science related methods and technologies and their importance for the research process as a whole

### **Competence and skills**

- demonstrate the ability to in an independent way formulate a fundamental relevant political science related problem and search actively, choose and apply analytical tools to discuss and highlight this problem both theoretically and empirically
- demonstrate the ability to efficiently and independently compile, review and communicate results of a larger learning and research process critically in both written and oral form within given time and space limits
- demonstrate the ability independently to carry out information searches within the knowledge field critically analyse the information and in a qualified way use this
- demonstrate the ability to reflect critically around and take responsibility for his or her own work and learning process, and follow the development of knowledge in the field of political science.

### **Judgement and approach**

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments of central social situations from relevant scientific and ethical aspects

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### **Course content**

Module 1 Political science related methodology (7.5 credits)

The module deepens the methodological knowledge that has been acquired under earlier studies in political science. The aim is to prepare the course participants for the thesis for the Bachelor's degree, but also to create a broad familiarity with political science related methods and analytical techniques. The module starts with a discussion of central scientific theoretical concepts and considerations. After that, the different stages of the research process are treated, where special attention is devoted to the consequences of different theoretical and methodological choices. Here we discuss problem formulation, concept formation, choice of research strategies and strategies for material collection. Special attention be devoted different forms of quantitative analysis, such as various types of case studies. In addition, different forms are treated by interpreting attempts as well as methods for normative analysis. In a final part, possibility to specialisation in an in advance specified methodological speciality is given. The course participants choose specialisation in view of the methodological specialisation in their bachelor thesis.

Module 2 Alternative in political science related theory (7.5 credits)

The module is chosen among the alternatives that the department establishes before each start of the course. Alternative with insufficient number applicants can be cancelled. A rule of thumb for the extent of the reading list is 1200 pages. This number of pages can be exceeded or be decreased depending on the degree of difficulty of the literature and the nature of the alternative course. Descriptions of the

This is a translation of the course syllabus approved in Swedish

alternative modules are in connection with the literature list.

### Module 3 Bachelor's Degree Project (15 credits)

The module includes a thesis work, where the student should make an independent analysis of a political science related problem. The student should present a research assignment orally and in writing and participate actively in the review of other students' research. The topic is determined in consultation with the supervisor and should be within the field of the students elective module.

## Course design

The teaching on module 1 and 2 take place in the form of lectures and seminars. Compulsory participation is required in seminars.

The teaching on module 3 consists of seminars, supervision, education in computer-aided information retrieval and a final examination seminar. Participation in the examination seminar is compulsory.

## Assessment

The modules are assessed continuously through active participation in seminars, compulsory written assignments and a final written examination. On the modules, three examination sessions been organised: a regular test, a re-examination in close connection to the regular examination session and a second re-examination.

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in introductions to modules, seminars and group exercises. 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.

The examination of module 3 implies that the students present a thesis as well as participate in the review of other theses in the seminar group. 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.

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.

*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.

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 module 1 and 2, 75 percent of the grade is based on written tests, and 25 percent on seminar activity. The grade in the whole course is decided by the grade on module 3, the bachelor thesis.

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**

For admission to the course, passed studies in political science are required extensive 1-60 credits.

## **Further information**

Module 1 is compulsory except for foreign exchange students. Student as at studies abroad read course of equivalent blows can after the decisions of examiner obtain this included as alternative module.

The degree project is to be registered in an Open Access database belonging to Lund University. Each student determines their own level of publication.

This course replaces STVK01, Political science: Bachelor Thesis, 30 credits.

## Subcourses in STVK02, Political Science: Bachelor's Course

### Applies from V14

- 1201 Methodology in Political Science, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1202 Alternative in Political Science, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1203 Degree Essay, 15,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1204 Discussant, 0,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1205 Knowledge Test, 0,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass

### Applies from H12

- 1201 Methodology in Political Science, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1202 Alternative in Political Science, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1203 Degree Essay, 15,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1204 Discussant, 0,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass