# STVN10, Political Science: Policy Processes - Actors, Causes and Consequences, 15 credits

*Statsvetenskap: Policyprocesser - aktörer, drivkrafter och konsekvenser, 15 högskolepoäng*

**Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå**

## Details of approval

The syllabus  is an old version, approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2011-11-17 and was last revised on 2017-12-14 by the board of the Department of Political Science. . The revised syllabus applied from 2018-01-15.  , spring semester 2018.

## General Information

The course is offered as a second-cycle course in political science. The course can be studied as a single subject course or as part of a programme.

*Language of instruction:* Swedish and English

| Main field of studies | Depth of study relative to the degree requirements |
|---|---|
| Political Science | A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements |

## Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall demonstrate

### Knowledge and understanding
- extensive knowledge of philosophical foundations, research problems, theories, methods, and research results in the academic study of policy processes

### Competence and skills
-  the ability to relate contemporary societal problems to the scientific study of policy processes

- the ability to summarise and critically assess scientific studies of policy processes, as well as to criticise such studies in a constructive way

- the ability to communicate the results of learning and research processes to different kinds of recipients within a given time frame, both in writing and orally

- the ability to follow the development of knowledge in the discipline of political science, and master techniques for making proper academic references

- an independent, critical and reflective attitude towards knowledge, learning, politics and society

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

## Course content

The theoretical aspects of the course focus on the interaction between three different levels of analysis: norms, institutions and actors. The course studies how actors make decisions, attempt to govern the system, and influence outcomes. It also studies the way in which norms and institutions both limit and enable the behaviour of the actors.

Two analytical problems are paid special attention:

- How does governance take place in public sector policy-making? The course covers various decision-making models and instruments of control.

- How can democracy and power be implemented? The course examines the how citizens and other actors representing groups of citizens can exercise influence on the policy-making process.

Both these problems demand an understanding of political science methodology. The course therefore examines different approaches from the theory of science, and methods applicable to research on policy-making processes. The empirical and more practical part of the course is based on a number of case studies, highlighting the differences in how policy is made in different policy areas.

## Course design

The course is based on a combination of lectures, individual studies, seminars and independent projects. Some of the lectures are given by practitioners who are invited to speak about their experiences from a professional career in the making of public policy. Participation in seminars is mandatory.

## Assessment

The assessment is based on:

- active and constructive participation in lectures and seminars

- class presentations

- an individual course paper

In addition to the regular examination, two extra examinations will be organised each time the course is given.

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.
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 the student must have 150 higher education credits, including a Bachelor degree essay, in the subject of political science, peace and conflict studies, or an equivalent discipline.

Subcourses in STVN10, Political Science: Policy Processes - Actors, Causes and Consequences

Applies from V12

1101  Course Paper, 15,0 hp
       Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A