



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

STVN16, Political Science: Rationality, Emotions and War, 15 credits

Statsvetenskap: Rationalitet, känslor och krig, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2015-03-04 and was last revised on 2016-12-14. The revised syllabus applies from 2017-01-16, spring semester 2017.

General Information

This is a course offered as an elective course in the Master of Science Programme in Political Science or as a single subject course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Political Science

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

In order to pass the course, the student should:

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to identify, understand and reflect on the interplay between rationality and emotions in warfare

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to apply the theoretical content of the course to the analysis of new empirical cases and situations
- communicate the results of learning and research processes within a given time frame, both in writing and orally

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate a critical and scientific approach to knowledge, learning, politics and society
- demonstrate the ability to contribute to a common learning environment and to group dynamic aspects of learning.

Course content

Is the decision to go to war best explained as a rational choice or do other factors, such as emotions, come into play? If so, what is the relationship between rational and emotional factors? What are "emotions" anyway and how can they be incorporated into social science explanations? And what are the differences in the way political leaders and soldiers make decisions? To ask these questions is to inquire into matters of the philosophy of science, but it is also to ask question about specific historical cases. Throughout the course these two concerns are combined. The course first explores four historical cases in particular: European colonial wars, the First World War, the Vietnam War and the Global War on Terror. The course pays special attention to the experiences of soldiers — to their choice to enlist and to their experiences on the battlefield.

Course design

Teaching includes lectures and seminars. The course is assessed through written assignments, active participation in seminars, and a final essay.

Assessment

In order to pass the course, all the assessments need to be successfully completed. The grade for the course is determined by the written assignments, but good oral accomplishments can influence the grade upwards. Attendance to the seminars is compulsory and absences need to be notified to the course convenor.

The course is examined through active participation in seminars and written assignments. Three examinations are arranged: the ordinary examination, re-examination and a second re-examination. Within one year after the course has undergone major revision, or ceased, at least two more examinations will be offered on the same course content. Thereafter the student will be offered additional examinations based on the new 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

Students enrolled in the Master's Programmes at the department of Political Science at Lund University are eligible to the course. Students can also take the course as a single subject course, provided that they have fulfilled course requirements of at least 150 credits, including a Bachelor thesis, in the discipline of political science, peace and conflict studies, or an equivalent discipline. Students taking the course as a single subject course must demonstrate English B (advanced) proficiency in one of the following ways:

- A pass on English course B (Swedish upper secondary school)
- IELTS score of 6.5 (with no section less than 5.5)
- TOEFL paper-based score of 4.5 (scale 1-6) in written test and a total score of 575; internet based score of 20 (scale 0-30) and a total score of 90
- Cambridge/Oxford – Advanced Certificate of Proficiency
- A Bachelor's degree from a university where English is the only language of instruction, according to the International Handbook of Universities

Subcourses in STVN16, Political Science: Rationality, Emotions and War

Applies from H15

1501 Course Papers and Seminars, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A