



Faculty of Social Sciences

STVN17, Political Science: Power, Politics and the Environment, 15 credits

Statsvetenskap: Makt, politik och miljö, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2015-09-16 and was valid from 2015-09-16, spring semester 2016.

General Information

This is a second cycle course in Political Science offered to students at Lund University.

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

On completion of the course, students shall demonstrate

Knowledge and understanding

- an understanding of the different concepts of power that are implicit or explicit in key political science theories, and how they are connected to environmental politics and governance

Competence and skills

- the ability to apply theories and concepts of power to cases of environmental problems, and to critically compare and reflect on the understandings following from different theoretical perspectives
- the ability to present analysis in written and oral form that corresponds to academic standards
- the ability to take responsibility for their learning process and contribute to a collective learning environment.

Course content

For a long time, the question of power has played a minor role in the literature on environmental politics and transformation. This course brings together these two themes. Such a combination is instructive for several reasons. First and generally, applying different theories and their concepts of power provides a range of perspectives for explaining and interpreting environmental governance - and, at the same time, it helps to identify key differences, strengths and weaknesses of the different theories. Second, environmental politics is marked by a high relevance of non-state actors and processes that seek to fill public governance gaps. A power-based focus helps to understand the corresponding power shifts within and between public and private sectors. Third, the diffusion of environmental effects across space and time has altered existing power relations and calls for new conceptualizations of responsibility, legitimacy and justice. Fourth, uncertainty over the causation and consequences of environmental crises has empowered knowledge brokers like scientists and experts and increases the relevance of constructivist concepts like discursive and cognitive power.

Course design

Teaching is based on diverse learning activities such as lectures, seminars and a simulation exercise.

Assessment

The course is assessed through active participation in seminars, student presentations, the simulation, and a course paper. In order to pass the course, all the assessments need to be successfully completed. Attendance to the seminars and the simulation is compulsory and absence needs to be notified to the course convener.

Re-examination is offered after the end of the course. If necessary, a second re-examination is arranged at a later date.

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 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 STVN17, Political Science: Power, Politics and the Environment

Applies from V16

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