



Faculty of Social Sciences

STVN18, Political Science: The Ethics of War and Peace, 15 credits

Statsvetenskap: Etik i krig och fred, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2015-09-16 to be 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.

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

On completion of the course, students shall demonstrate

Knowledge and understanding

- an understanding of different normative frameworks that have been developed for restraining or legitimizing the use of force in international politics

Competence and skills

- the ability to apply different normative frameworks to real cases of war and peace in international politics, and to compare and reflect on their relevance

- 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

Under what conditions is the use of force permissible? This course provides a historical and critical overview of attempts to restrain and legitimize the use of force in international politics from the early modern period to the present day. The course opens with a broad survey of the main traditions in the ethics of war in the history of political and legal thought, and then tries to assess their contemporary relevance against the backdrop of current changes in the practice of warfare. Given that traditional positions are believed to be increasingly irrelevant, the third part of the course addresses alternative modes of thinking in ethical terms about war and peace in the present.

Course design

The course consists of a series lectures and seminars. Attendance at seminars is mandatory. Students who miss a seminar will have to make up for their absence by an assignment.

Assessment

Assessment is based on active participation in seminars and group work, and on an individually written course paper. 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 programs 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 STVN18, Political Science: The Ethics of War and Peace

Applies from V16

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