



Faculty of Social Sciences

## FKVC37, Peace and Conflict Studies: Critical Security Studies, 7.5 credits

*Freds- och konfliktvetenskap: Kritiska säkerhetsstudier, 7,5 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 2024-06-12. The syllabus comes into effect 2025-01-20 and is valid from the spring semester 2025.

### General information

The course constitutes an elective alternative course during the third semester in the subject peace and conflict studies.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of study*      *Specialisation*

Political Science    G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### Learning outcomes

For a pass grade on the course, the students shall be able to

#### Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate a broad understanding of the meaning of security beyond armed conflict to also include other (in)security challenges (such as mobility, climate change, humanitarian interventions etc.)
- identify and compare traditional and critical perspectives in security studies
- analyse global and interpersonal (in)securities from a variety of critical perspectives
- familiar themselves with critical epistemologies, theories, debates and methods for the analysis of (in)securities
- discuss how gender, race and class are forms of power around which debates about securities and insecurities are organised.

## Competence and skills

- develop the ability to contribute actively to collective knowledge-building in the classroom and to critical security studies as a subject area
- use critical perspectives in security studies to analyse, deconstruct and contribute to contemporary debates on (in)securities
- demonstrate independence in formulating and presenting research ideas, both in writing and orally, in an informed, persuasive and creative way.

## Judgement and approach

- reflect on the implications of adopting critical, feministic and decolonial perspectives in security studies
- identify how to integrate an analysis of insecurities into research that would account for the intersection of gender, race, class and other markers of oppression
- reflect on their own understanding of security and identify their own biases and limitations.

## Course content

What is (in)security? Who are the subjects and objects of (in)security in contemporary politics? What is the role of gender, race and class in creating different forms of (in)securities? The objective of the Critical Security Studies course is to analyse the concept of security in political science and international relations, and offer a radical rethinking of traditional perspectives based on critical theories. Starting from an understanding of mainstream debates in security studies, the course aims to broaden what are considered security-related topics (by going beyond the discourse on armed conflict and the military) and to develop the ways in which we analyse them. To do so, this course approaches the concept of security with theoretical and methodological lenses, using creative, art-based and narrative methods for security analysis. Through this course, students will familiarise themselves with contemporary security issues and learn to formulate research problems relevant to global and everyday (in)securities based on critical perspectives.

## Course design

Teaching consists of interactive lectures and workshops. The course is based on a collective knowledge-building methodology. Therefore, active and continuous participation is a fundamental building block of the course. Lectures and workshops are compulsory. A student who due to circumstances beyond their control is prevented from participating in a compulsory component is offered an equivalent alternative to or other time for the missed component.

## Assessment

The course is examined through active participation in the activities that are held during the workshops, compulsory written assignments (40% of the final grade) and a final academic paper (60% of the final grade).

The course includes opportunities for assessment at the first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses that have ended during that academic year (catch-up exam). At least two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the course being discontinued or undergoing a major revamp. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

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.

## **Grades**

Grading scale includes the grades: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

One of the grades A, B, C, D, E or Fail will be awarded. The highest grade is A and the lowest pass grade is E. The grade for unacceptable results is Fail.

The student's results are assessed based on 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 has shown unacceptable results.

At the start of the course, the students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and the grading scale, and how this is applied during the course.

## **Entry requirements**

Admission to the course requires pass grades in peace and conflict studies totalling 60 credits (FKVA13 and FKVA22 or equivalent ) or political science totalling 60 credits (STVA14 and STVA23 or equivalent).