



Faculty of Social Sciences

STVA12, Political Science: Level 1, 30 credits

Statsvetenskap: Grundkurs, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2012-04-12 and was last revised on 2019-11-12. The revised syllabus applies from 2020-01-20, spring semester 2020.

General Information

The course constitutes the first semester studies in the main field of study political science. The course can be read as a freestanding course or in a programme according to the programme syllabus.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Main field of studies

Political Science

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

After finishing the course, the students should

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate an understanding of the meaning of politics, its borders, actors and structures and processes

- show knowledge of central political science related issues and basic methods and techniques

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to choose and use relevant tools to solve provided analytical problems
- demonstrate the ability to compile and communicate the results of a learning process in both written and oral form within given time and space limits
- demonstrate the ability to carry out basic information searches and be able to carry out simple reference management
- demonstrate the ability to take responsibility for and plan their own work and learning process
- demonstrate the ability to cooperate with other in order to implement joint aims

Course content

The aim of the course is to give an introduction to the scientific study of politics. The course includes three modules.

Module 1 Political science related introduction (7.5 credits)

The module starts with a presentation of the political science as the scientific study of politics. Emphasis is placed at the meaning of this approach and at the development and current nature of the discipline, with a view of the basic elements of the research process: problem, theory, method, materials and results

After that, the course is devoted to political philosophy, i.e. theories that investigate the value questions related to politics. This includes the political analysis of ideas, democratic theory, analysis of central political-philosophical concepts, such as power, freedom, and justice.

Module 2 Policy and board (15 credits)

In the course, normative and empirical theories of concepts are treated, such as democracy, state, politics and power. In focus, are classical political science related problems around the organization of politics. The emphasis lies on comparing analyses of democratic systems, but with recurrent comparisons also with non-democratic politics. A main issue concerns the relation between different normative democracy perspectives and the concrete design of the institutions of a state, and political systems and processes. The course encompasses a broad spectrum of issues, such as constitutions and the state authorities role in the political process (e.g. parliaments, Government, administration and electoral system), the roles of parties and other actors, as well as more general issues concerning the importance of political culture for the functions of the system.

Module 3 International policy (7.5 credits)

The module introduces the political science related theorising around the problem of order, conflict and cooperation at an international level. The discussion is concentrated to three different analytical levels: (1) the system as a whole, (2) international political actors and (3) interaction between two or several actors. The systemic level deals with international security, international political economy and the relations between North and South. The actor level deals with processes and properties that contribute to shape individual actors' policy vis-à-vis the other states and actors. The level of interaction deals with the dynamics that is developed in the relations between the actors regarding international conflicts or various types of co-operation processes.

Course design

The teaching is given as lectures and seminars. Participation in course introductions, seminars and group work are compulsory. Students are expected to take active part in all teaching sessions. The student should to the seminars have prepared their assignments according to instructions.

Assessment

The examination takes place through written examination at the end of respective course module. In the course/the module be organised three examination sessions: a regular test, a re-examination in close connection to the regular examination session, and an extra re-examination.

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.

As grade, one of the terms A is used, B, C, D, E or failed: The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E: Grade for failed results is denoted with failed.

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.

Grade on module is decided by the result of the written test. The grade in the whole course is decided through a joining of the grades on the three modules that are

included in the course. The grades A-E are converted to numerical values that are divided with the number of modules and be rounded off according to mathematical principles.

Entry requirements

General and courses corresponding to the following Swedish Upper Secondary School Programs: Civics 1b/1a1+1a2, English 6.

Further information

This course replaces STVA11, Political science: Basic course, 30 credits:

Subcourses in STVA12, Political Science: Level 1

Applies from H12

- 1201 Introduction to Political Science, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1202 Knowledge Test: Introduction to Political Science, 0,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1203 Seminar 1, 0,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1204 Seminar 2, 0,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1205 Politics and Government, 9,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1206 Seminars, 3,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1207 Paper, 3,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1208 International Politics, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1209 Discussion, 0,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1210 Analysis of Article, 0,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1211 Review, 0,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass