



Faculty of Social Sciences

STVA22, Political Science: Level 2, 30 credits

Statsvetenskap: Föreläsning, 30 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2012-04-12 and was last revised on 2021-04-21. . The revised syllabus applied from 2021-08-31. , autumn semester 2020.

General Information

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

Language of instruction: Swedish

Main field of studies

Political Science

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

After finishing the course, the students should

Knowledge and understanding

- show advanced knowledge of central issues and research results in one of the core areas of the political science

- show advanced and practical knowledge of political science related methods and techniques, and their importance for research results

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to formulate a political science related problem and choose and use relevant tools actively to solve this problem
- demonstrate the ability to compile and communicate results of a larger learning process efficiently in both written and oral form, within given time and length limits
- demonstrate the ability to evaluate and review others' studies in a critical way
- demonstrate the ability to carry out relevant information searches, evaluate information and reference management

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to in a constructive way be participating in a joint learning process
- demonstrate the ability to reflect on and take responsibility for his or her own work and learning process

Course content

Module 1 Political science related methodology (9 credits)

The module intends to communicate basic methodological knowledge: The module deals with the different stages of the research process and starts with a discussion of the importance of the problem formulation and different strategies to study political phenomena. Case studies, comparative method and quantitative method are treated, where criteria for choice of case and the connection to theory are discussed. Issues around operationalisation of theoretical concepts are treated, as well as methods for material collection. Different kinds of textual analysis is dealt with, and methods for normative analysis. The module includes a large element of exercises and practical components. After completing the module, the student has developed a good ability to formulate a political science related problem and choose and use relevant methodological tools to solve this problem.

Module 2 Alternative in political science related theory (9 credits)

The module is chosen among the alternatives that the department board establishes before each start of the course. The alternative courses intend to give an overview of different political science related research domains. A rule of thumb for the extent of the reading list is 1350 pages. This number of pages can be exceeded or be decreased depending on the degree of difficulty of the literature and the nature of the alternative course. Descriptions of the alternatives are at the far back in the course syllabus.

Module 3 Thesis (12 credits)

In the module, the students work in pairs, and write a thesis in which they develop the ability independently to treat political science related problems. This implies that the students should carry out and present a research assignment in writing, as well as participate in the review of other students' research. The topic is chosen in consultation with examiner and should be brought from the field that the optional module treats.

The 2 Alternative CONFLICT AND COOPERATION I INTERNATIONAL POLICY (9 credits)

The module gives a general introduction to the research domain och conflict and cooperation by presenting basic theories about war and conflict, conflict solution, cooperation and transnational cooperation.

The 2 Alternative POWER AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (9 credits) of module

The starting point for the module is the public administration as a political institution. The development of the institutional theory, the bases of the organizational theory, and the gender perspective on organisation and leadership form the theoretical basis in the module. Does it matter how the administration is organised and which administrative culture that prevails? What implies leadership and which requirements can be set on a leader in public activities? Which conceptual and structural forces create a pressure for change on the administration? What do different parties want achieve, and what is in fact possible to accomplish, by reforming the administration?

Based on institutional theorising, empirics from various types of administrative, systems, as well as a comparative methods, search for answers to these questions. The students are given large possibilities to, within the limits of the module, and primarily in the thesis work, pursue personal interests in the field. It can could be analyses of the administration in different states, the administration's importance for democracy, leadership in public activities, reforms in Swedish municipalities, EU's administrative culture etc.

Module 2 Alternative HOW STATES are GOVERNED (9 credits)

This course compares political systems. The aim is to broaden and deepen the students' knowledge in comparative politics above all with regard to theories and research results regarding the origin and effects of the central political institutions. Some examples of issues that are treated during the course are: What is the difference between democracy and dictatorship? What is it for difference between different non-democratic systems, and what role does it play? What is the importance of the electoral system for the functioning of representative democracy? How is political power in parliamentary and presidential systems delegated? Why do some states have constitutional courts? and What is the importance of power sharing for the government's possibilities to carry out political reforms?

Module 2 Alternative BUILDING DEMOCRACY (9 credits)

The aim of the module is to be based on different theoretical methods and with different methodological angles of approach analyse preconditions and possibilities for building of democracy, based on different theoretical methods and approaches. The basis of the module is a comparative approach that connects to a traditional political science related research tradition. The empirical focus interest is both authoritarian political systems and recently democratized states, as well as more established democratic systems.

Most of the regimes in the world are in the borderland between authoritarian and democratic rule. A central element in the module is to analyse preconditions and possibilities for democratisation and the emergence of stable democracy. Particular interest is directed to the design of political institutions (presidentialism versus parliamentarism, unitary states versus federal structures, majority elections versus proportional elections etc) and which consequences has for such conditions as the role of the civil society in different types of political regimes, and the importance of ethnic disunity and conflict. An introduction is also given to the study of different types of regimes (authoritarian, democratic and semi-democratic) and different methods and strategies to classify these. The module treats questions like how one can create stable democracy in an ethnically divided society. Which role does the civilian society play for democratic development? How can we explain that certain regimes are stable while others are under constant change? Are parliamentary democracies more stable than presidential democracies?

Module 2 Alternative MODERN SOCIETY AND ITS CRITIC (9 credits)

In today's society is the large decomposition around the ideal of the age of enlightenment about rationalism, universal values and human rights. We in general believe that one can control both the history and nature and that we make constant progress. Through the revolutions in France and the USA at the end of the 18th century, these ideas would become to political programmes that were included soon of almost all. But the ideals of the age of enlightenment and the revolutions had also critics and the criticism has continued in our time. In this course, it is these critics that are studied: romantic, conservative, reactionaries, but also radicals and revolutionaries. It is a course in political history of ideas with a focus on texts produced by different political thinkers but the ideas be discussed also in his historical and social context.

Module 2 Alternative THE CHALLENGES of the DEMOCRACY

Democracy is often seen that a life form that each person must internalise and that each generation must re-conquer in a constant learning process. Democracy is not a political system that is to be taken for given. Today, the democracy is threatened from many directions. Populist and anti-immigration movements question the equal value of all people as a basic democratic value. Increasing economic inequality decreases peoples ability to participate in the democratic process on equal terms. The citizens' ability to exercise democratic accountability is complicated by an extensive use of experts in the policy process, and by the participation of non-elected actors in the process.

This module discusses current and concrete challenges to democracy based on classical theoretical texts in democratic theory. We ask normative questions about democracy in relation to current challenges: Who ought to have political influence? Which questions ought to be regarded as political and influenced by democratic values? How should democratic decision-making processes be designed?

Course design

The teaching on module 1 and 2 take place in the form of lectures and seminars. Compulsory participation is required in seminars.

The teaching on module 3 consists of seminars, supervision, education in computer-aided information retrieval and a final examination seminar. Participation in the examination seminar is compulsory.

Assessment

The modules are assessed continuously through active participation in seminars, compulsory written assignments and a final written examination. On the modules, three examination sessions been organised: a regular test, a re-examination in close connection to the regular examination session and a second re-examination.

The examination of module 3 implies that the students present a thesis, as well as participate in the review of other theses in the seminar group. The hours for supervision are restricted to the semester for which the student was initially registered. Exceptions can be made if there are valid reasons.

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.

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.

On module 1 and 2 be based 75 percents of the grade on written tests and 25 percents in a seminar activity. On module 3, the grade on the thesis that is presented at the examination seminar is based. The grade in the whole course is decided through a joining of the grades on the 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

For admission to the course, completed course requirements are required extensive 1-30 credits in political science (STVA12 or the equivalent).

Further information

Which of below alternative courses that should be given are decided by The Department of Government's board before each semester. Alternative courses with insufficient number of applicants can be cancelled.

The degree project is to be registered in an Open Access database belonging to Lund University. Each student determines their own level of publication.

This course replaces STVA21, Political science: advanced course, 30 credits.

Subcourses in STVA22, Political Science: Level 2

Applies from H12

- 1201 Methodology in Political Science, 9,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1202 Alternative in Political Science, 9,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1203 Paper, 12,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1204 Discussant, 0,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass