

STVC55, Political Science: Environmental Governance, 7.5 credits

Statsvetenskap: Governance i miljöpolitiken, 7,5 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2011-11-08 and was last revised on 2025-10-15. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-01-19 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

General information

This course in Political Science is offered to undergraduate and exchange students at Lund University. Lectures and seminars are conducted in English, and examination papers are written in English.

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

On completion of the course, students shall be able to demonstrate

Knowledge and understanding

- an understanding of key issues in the study of environmental politics and governance
- knowledge of key theories, frameworks, and methods used in the study of environmental politics

Competence and skills

- the ability to compare and reflect on key theories and frameworks used in the study of environmental politics

- the ability to apply the discussed theoretical and methodological tools in empirical studies of environmental issues
- the ability to present her/his analysis in written and oral form that corresponds to academic standards.

Judgement and approach

- the ability to contribute to a common learning environment and to group dynamic aspects of learning.

Course content

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the realm of environmental politics as a topic of scientific inquiry. It is designed for students who have basic knowledge of environmental issues and a broader knowledge of political science theory and methods. The course begins by conceptualising the environment as a political issue. It then introduces different strands of environmental political thought, presents policy processes and policy instruments used in environmental governance, and provides an overview of global environmental governance institutions. Following each lecture, there will be a seminar in which students work more deeply with the assigned literature and with the topics discussed in the lectures. To give the students an impression of the diversity inherent to environmental politics, the course covers a range of empirical cases at local, national and international governance levels. It discusses actors, institutions, policies, and their interaction with each other, and importance in the political process. In parallel to the empirical cases, the course also introduces a set of theories and analytical frameworks that are commonly used to study environmental politics, and discusses their application in scientific as well as policy relevant contexts.

Course design

The course consists of a series of lectures and seminars. In addition to the regular examinations, two extra examinations will be organised each term. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in seminars. Students who have been unable to participate due to unforeseen circumstances, accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

Assessment

The assessment of the course is based on oral presentations, active participation in seminars and a concluding exam. In addition to the first examination, two extra examinations will be organised each term. 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.

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Grades

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

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 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 insufficient results.

The concluding exam constitutes 40 percent of the grade, the oral presentations constitutes 35 percent of the grade, and the written assignments and active participation in seminars constitutes 25 percent of the grade.

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

To be eligible for the course the student must have the equivalence of one year (60 credits) of coursework in Political Science.