

## **STVC59, Political Science: Experts and Democracy, 7.5 credits**

*Political Science: Experts and Democracy, 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 2011-11-08 and was last revised on 2024-11-20. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-01-20 and is valid from the spring semester 2025.

### **General information**

This is a course in political science offered to students in the first cycle.

*Language of instruction:* Swedish and 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, the students shall be able to

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- demonstrate knowledge of issues and dilemmas concerning experts' role in policy processes in modern democracies
- demonstrate knowledge of research issues, theoretical traditions and methods in the study of the relation between experts and democracy.

#### **Competence and skills**

- formulate a relevant research issue in the area covered by the course, and have the ability to theorise, generalise and discuss this issue
- present written and oral analysis according to academic standards
- take responsibility for their own learning process during the course by participating actively in group assignments, seminars and individual assignments.

## **Judgement and approach**

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

## **Course content**

The course explores experts' role in present-day policy processes and public administration. The starting point is a democratic dilemma. On the one hand, expert knowledge is necessary to enable politicians to make informed and good decisions. On the other hand, there is a risk that experts dominate at the expense of citizen influence. The course examines different theoretical perspectives on key concepts such as democracy, experts and different types of expert knowledge. It also emphasises the relation between them and how they are significant at different stages of the political decision-making process and in different political institutions at the local, national and supranational level. Theoretical insights are also applied to concrete policy issues.

## **Course design**

The course combines interactive lectures, which introduce the problem areas of the course, with student-led seminars and thematic panel debates/role play.

## **Assessment**

Students are assessed on the basis of active seminar participation and a final individual written and oral assignment. Apart from constituting the basis for the assessment in this course, the course paper can also function as a preparation for students who plan to write a Bachelor's essay that is related to the contents of the course.

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

The grading scale includes the grades Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The highest grade is A and the lowest passing 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 E, the student should have shown insufficient 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**

For admission to the course, pass grades in political science studies are required amounting to 1-60 credits.