



Faculty of Social Sciences

STVC59, Political Science: Experts and Democracy, 7.5 credits

Political Science: Experts and Democracy, 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 2024-04-17. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2024-09-02 and is valid from the autumn semester 2024.

General information

This is a course in political science that is 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 problems and dilemmas concerning experts' role in policy process 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 of that thanks of the course, and have the ability to theorise generalise and discuss this problem
- present written and oral analysis according to academic standard
- 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 joint 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, expertise is necessary because politicians should be able 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 expertise. It also emphasises the relation between them and how they are significant in different stages of the political decision-making process and in different political departments at the local, national and supranational level. Theoretical understanding is also applied to concrete policy issues.

Course design

The course combines interactive lectures in which the problem areas of the course are introduced with student-led seminars and thematic panel debates/role plays.

Assessment

Students are assessed on the basis of their active seminar participation and the writing of an individual course paper. 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 a result that is unacceptable is Fail.

The student's performance is 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, students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and the grading scale, and how it is applied in the course.

Entry requirements

For admission to the course, passed studies in political science are required extensive 1-60 credits.