



LUND
UNIVERSITY

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 2020-11-18. The revised syllabus applies from 2021-01-18, spring semester 2021.

General Information

This is a course in Political Science that is offered to first cycle students and exchange students at Lund University.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Political Science

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall have the ability to

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge of problems and dilemmas related to the role of experts in the policy-process of modern democracies
- demonstrate knowledge on research problems, theoretical traditions, and methods in the study of the relationship between experts and democracy

Competence and skills

- formulate a relevant research problem in the area covered by the course, and be able to theorise, generalise, and discuss this problem

- present written and oral analysis according to academic standards
- take responsibility for her/his own learning process during the course by actively participating in group work, seminars, and individual assignments

Judgement and approach

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

Course content

The course explores the role played by experts in modern policymaking and public administration. The point of departure is a democratic dilemma. On the one hand, expert knowledge is crucial for politicians to make wise and good decisions. On the other hand, there is a risk that experts come to dominate at the expense of citizen influence. The course examines different theoretical perspectives on the meaning of key concepts like democracy, experts, and different kinds of expert knowledge. It also highlights the relationship between them, and how they matter in different stages of the political decision-making process, and in different political institutions at the local, national and super-national level. The theoretical insights are also applied to concrete policy issues.

Course design

The course combines interactive lectures, where the problem area of the course is introduced, with student conducted seminars, as well as thematically directed panel debates/role plays.

Assessment

Students are assessed by way of active participation in lectures and seminars, as well as by authoring an individually written research paper. In addition to being a basis for assessment of this particular course, the research paper can serve as a preparation for students who plan to write a bachelor thesis related to the content 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.

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.

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 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.

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the student must have the equivalence of 60 ECTS credits from studies in Political Science.

Subcourses in STVC59, Political Science: Experts and Democracy

Applies from V12

1101 Course Paper, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A