



Faculty of Social Sciences

STVC76, Political Science: Comparative Politics, 7.5 credits

Statsvetenskap: Komparativ politik, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2017-12-14 and was valid from 2018-01-15, spring semester 2018.

General Information

The course constitutes an elective alternative course during third semester's studies in political science.

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 should show

Knowledge and understanding

- knowledge of important similarities and differences between (a) political institutions and (b) the public policy in democratic states,

Competence and skills

- ability to apply theories about political institutions and political decision making to analyse relationships between political institutions, political decision making and public policy

- ability to reflect on and suggest practical solutions on central methodological problems in empirical research about comparative policy

- ability to present written and oral analysis of comparative policy in accordance with academic standards

Judgement and approach

- ability to take responsibility for the students own learning process by taking active part in group assignments, seminar discussions and individual assignments

Course content

The aim of the course is to give advanced knowledge of comparative policy, particularly concerning the output side of the political system. This includes relationships between political institutions, political decision-making and public policy in democratic states. Some examples of questions that are brought up during the course are: Why is the USA the only wealthy democracy in world that not has not introduced general sickness insurance? Why have certain countries stricter environmental regulations than others? And why is it that the welfare state is so large, and taxes so high, in the rich democracies in Northern Europe? The course also covers classical methodological problems in the study of comparative policy, and different ways to find solutions on these.

Course design

Teaching takes place in the form of lectures and seminars. Participation in seminars is compulsory. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as 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 course is assessed through active participation in seminars, compulsory written assignments, and a final written examination. The course has a regular examination, a re-examination in close connection to the regular examination, and a third examination within one year of the course. Within a year after the course has gone through a larger change or ceased, at least two additional examination sessions are offered on the same course content. Thereafter, the student is offered examination sessions but in accordance with current course syllabus.

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.

Written assignments and final written examination accounts for 75 percent, and seminar activity 25 percent, of the final grade of the course.

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

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

Subcourses in STVC76, Political Science: Comparative Politics

Applies from V18

1801 Course paper, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A