



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

## **STVC78, Political Science: Visual International Relations, 7.5 credits**

*Statsvetenskap: Visuella internationella relationer, 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 2019-12-11 to be valid from 2020-01-20, spring semester 2020.

### **General Information**

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

### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course the student should demonstrate

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

comprehensive knowledge of the dynamics of visual politics in international relations and how images shape international events and practices,

#### **Competence and skills**

ability to apply theories about visibility in global politics to analyse the interplay between visibility, politics and international relations,

ability to formulate a relevant research problem and reflect on practical solutions of central methodological problems in empirical research on visual politics in international relations in a scholarly way,

ability to present written and oral analysis of visual politics in international relations in accordance with academic standards,

### **Judgement and approach**

develop an 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 course will introduce and advance knowledge about the power of visual images in global politics. Central issues to be discussed include analysing various visual aspects (photographs, film, television, art, cartoons, maps, monument, video games, new media, etc) in areas such as war, diplomacy, financial crisis, celebrity interventions, social movements, peacebuilding and election campaigns. Some illustrative questions, which are explored and studied during the course are: How are international events shaped by images? How do visual elements influence the perception of international political phenomena? What is the visual representation of international relations and its concrete practical implications? What is the impact, power and roles of drones, satellites, digital platforms, etc in global politics? What does it mean to communicate, think and act in visual ways in international relations? The course also covers some methodological dilemmas emerging from the study of visuality in global politics and suggests ways how to resolve them.

### **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 elected student representatives.

### **Assessment**

The course is assessed through active participation in seminars, compulsory written assignments, and a final written examination. The course offers a regular examination, a re-examination in close connection to the regular examination, and a third examination opportunity within one year of the course. The student who does not take the exam within that year can expect the course contents to have changed though at least two additional examination sessions are offered on the same course content. Thereafter, the student is offered examination sessions but in accordance with the prevalent 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.

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*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 STVC78, Political Science: Visual International Relations

Applies from V20

2001 Course paper, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A