

STVK12, Political Science: Bachelor's Thesis in Development Studies, 15 credits

*Statsvetenskap: Examensarbete för kandidatexamen i utvecklingsstudier, 15
högskolepoäng*
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2011-12-15 and was last revised on 2025-02-26 by the board of the Department of Political Science. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-09-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

General information

The course is offered as a compulsory course within the Bachelor of Science Programme in Development Studies with a major in Political Science.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

Political Science	G2E, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements, contains degree project for Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science
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Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge of philosophical foundations, research problems, theories and results in the political study of development processes
- demonstrate thorough knowledge of political science methods and techniques, and understand how these affect the research process as a whole

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to independently formulate a research problem concerning the political study of development processes, and have the ability to select and apply analytical tools for theoretical and empirical analysis of this problem
- demonstrate the ability to summarize, review, evaluate, and convey the results of a comprehensive learning and research process both in writing and orally, while adhering to given limitations in terms of time and length.
- demonstrate the ability to independently search for information about the knowledge area, and to analyse and use this information in a qualified way
- demonstrate the ability to analyse societal conditions from relevant scientific and ethical perspectives
- demonstrate the ability to contribute to a common learning environment and to the group dynamic aspects of learning.

Judgement and approach

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Course content

In this course, students work in pairs to design and execute a scientific inquiry. The students should identify a relevant research problem, select an appropriate method, process a comprehensive theoretical and empirical material, and report the findings in the form of a written text. The work process is guided by a supervisor appointed by the department. Whereas the supervisor provides constructive feedback on the basic structure of the inquiry, the course represents an independent research effort, and the responsibility for the final product rests with the student him- or herself.

No later than a month after the beginning of the term, the students submit a written preliminary description of the orientation of the study, which is used for the assignment of a supervisor. The more specific aspects of design and organisation of the study are then decided after consultation with the supervisor.

The Bachelor's thesis is written in pairs. Permission to write individually can be granted if there are special reasons.

Course design

The teaching consists of planning seminars, examination seminars, lectures on computer based information search, and individual guidance. Participation in seminars is mandatory. The finished thesis is discussed and reviewed at an examination seminar. To pass the course, the student must defend his or her own thesis at the seminar, and serve as discussant on some other thesis in the group. Discussants submit a written summary of their review.

Assessment

A possibility for a re-exam will be offered shortly after the first exam opportunity. Moreover, additional opportunities for re-exams will be offered at later dates.

The time allocated for supervision is limited to the semester when the student was first registered for the course. Exceptions can be made if there are special reasons.

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 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 to the course the student must be enrolled in the Bachelor of Science Programme in Development Studies at Lund University (BIDS), and have fulfilled course requirement of at least 45 credits of first year courses and 45 credits of second year courses. Completed courses should include STC02 and STVC05.

Further information

The thesis should be registered in an open access database belonging to Lund University. The level of publication is decided by the authors.