



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

## **STVM23, Political Science: Master's (Two Years) Thesis in European Affairs, 30 credits**

*Political Science: Master's (Two Years) Thesis in European Affairs,  
30 högskolepoäng*  
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2011-11-17 and was last revised on 2016-05-25 by the board of the Department of Political Science. The revised syllabus applies from 2017-01-01, spring semester 2017.

### **General Information**

This is a political science course offered to students in the programme Master of Science (Two Years) in European Affairs. The medium of instruction is English and the thesis is written in English.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

Political Science

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course, students shall

#### **Competence and skills**

- be able to independently formulate a relevant political science research problem in the field of European Affairs, and have the ability to theorise, generalise and discuss this problem in an abstract way
- be able to design, execute and reflect on all stages of a political science research process

- be able to summarize, review, evaluate and criticize other studies in political science
- be able to communicate the results of learning and research processes to different kinds of recipients within a given time frame, both in writing and orally
- be able to follow the development of knowledge in political science and the research on European Affairs, and master techniques for making proper academic references
- demonstrate a critical attitude towards knowledge, learning, politics and society
- be able to contribute to a common learning environment and to the group dynamic aspects of learning.
- be able to demonstrate knowledge about scientific channels of communication, and be able to monitor the academic development within their field of study and employ referencing systems

## **Course content**

The course implies that the students design and execute a scientific inquiry on their own. The students should identify a relevant research problem in the field of European Affairs, 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 responsibility for the final product rests with the authors themselves.

## **Course design**

The course is based on a combination of different teaching and learning activities. These include lectures, individual guidance, self-directed studies and seminars. Students formulate their initial ideas in a short thesis plan that is discussed collectively at a special seminar. Time is also provided for individual meetings with the supervisor. The finished thesis is examined at a concluding examination seminar. Given the nature of writing a thesis, the core activity is nevertheless the student's individual research efforts.

The assessment of the course is based primarily on the quality of the thesis, but also on how well this is defended at the examination seminar, as well as the author's efforts when serving as a discussant of other theses in the group.

Participation in the seminars is compulsory.

## **Assessment**

In addition to the regular examinations, extra examinations will be organised each semester.

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.

*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 passed at least 60 higher education credits of courses in the programme Master of Science (Two Years) in European Affairs, including 15 higher education credits in Methodology in Social Sciences.

## **Further information**

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

## Subcourses in STVM23, Political Science: Master's (Two Years) Thesis in European Affairs

Applies from V12

- 1101 Master's (Two Years) Thesis in European Affairs, 30,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1102 Discussant, 0,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass