



Faculty of Social Sciences

STVN10, Political Science: Policy Processes - Actors, Causes and Consequences, 15 credits

Statsvetenskap: Policyprocesser - aktörer, drivkrafter och konsekvenser, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2011-11-17 and was last revised on 2020-05-20 by the board of the Department of Political Science. The revised syllabus applied from 2020-08-31, autumn semester 2020.

General Information

This course in Political Science is offered to students at Lund University. Lectures and seminars are conducted in English, and examination papers are written in English.

Language of instruction: English and Swedish

Main field of studies

Political Science

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to demonstrate

Knowledge and understanding

- extensive knowledge of philosophical foundations, research problems, theories, methods, and research results in the academic study of policy processes;

Competence and skills

- the ability to relate contemporary societal problems to the scientific study of policy processes;

- the ability to summarise and critically assess scientific studies of policy processes, as well as to criticise such studies in a constructive way;
- the ability to communicate the results of learning and research processes to different kinds of recipients within a given time frame, both in writing and orally;
- the ability to follow the development of knowledge in the discipline of political science, and master techniques for making proper academic references;
- an independent, critical and reflective attitude towards knowledge, learning, politics and society
- the ability to contribute to a common learning environment and to group dynamic aspects of learning.

Course content

The theoretical aspects of the course focus on the interaction between three different dimensions of analysis: norms, institutions, and actors. The course studies the way in which actors make decisions, attempt to govern the system and influence outcomes. Secondly, it studies the way in which norms and institutions both limit and enable the behaviour of actors.

Two analytical problems are paid special attention in the course:

- How does governance take place in public sector policy-making? Various decision-making models and instruments of control are highlighted.
- What roles do democracy and power play? The possibilities for citizens and actors representing citizens to exercise influence over the policy-making process are examined.

Addressing both these issues demands an understanding of different scientific approaches. The course therefore examines a set of theoretical perspectives from different philosophies of science, methods and concepts that are applicable to research on policy-making processes.

The empirical and the more practical elements of the course are based on a number of cases taking the form of research proposals. They focus on policy-making processes in three different policy areas: security, health and environmental protection. The aim of case studies is to enable students to identify similarities and dissimilarities between how public policy-making takes place in different areas of the public sector.

Course design

The course is based on a combination of lectures, individual studies, seminars and independent projects in case study groups.

Assessment

The assessment is based on:

- Individual take home exam with essay questions (50 %)
- Research proposal assignment – group work (30 %): Research proposal report + study work and class presentations

- Active and constructive participation in lectures and seminars (20 %)
- Continuous examination through research proposal seminars

In addition to the regular examination, two extra examinations will be organised each time the course is given.

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 the student must have 150 higher education credits, including a Bachelor degree essay, in the subject of political science, peace and conflict studies, or an equivalent discipline.

Subcourses in STVN10, Political Science: Policy Processes - Actors, Causes and Consequences

Applies from V12

1101 Course Paper, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A