



Faculty of Social Sciences

STVN13, Political Science: War and Peace in a World in Transition, 15 credits

Statsvetenskap: Krig och fred i en föränderlig värld, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2011-11-08 and was last revised on 2011-11-17 by Faculty Board of Social Sciences. . The revised syllabus applied from 2011-11-17. , autumn semester 2012.

General Information

This is a Political Science course offered as an elective course in the Master of Science Programme in Social Science or as a single subject course.

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, students shall

Knowledge and understanding

have acquired extensive knowledge of philosophical foundations, research problems, theories, methods, and research results in the academic study of war and peace.

Competence and skills

be able to relate contemporary international political problems to the scientific study of war and peace

- be able to summarise, criticise and assess scientific studies of war and peace
- 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 the discipline of political science, and master techniques for making proper academic references
- have developed an independent, critical and reflective attitude towards knowledge, learning, politics and society
- be able to contribute to a common learning environment and to the group dynamic aspects of learning.

Course content

The overall aim of the course is to provide a theoretical and empirical orientation of different explanations and analyses of contemporary wars and attempts to achieve a more peaceful world. The course highlights theoretically how war as an institution is transformed and what consequences this alteration has on warfare, security and peace support operations in different parts of the world. Various theoretical perspectives are discussed and evaluated. Particular emphasis is placed on the interplay between normative assumptions about war and peace and how these ideas affect issues, such as legitimacy, justice and security. Moreover, the course addresses peace in practice through empirical analyses about specific peace-building models and peacemaking strategies in such regions as Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans. The linkage between civilian and military dimensions, and the variation of strategies among actors (states, intergovernmental, non-governmental) in peace support operations are highlighted. Through case studies, the students will be able to generate knowledge and insights about specific circumstances of war and the possibilities as well as the restraints that exist in peacemaking efforts.

Course design

The course is based on a combination of lectures, individual studies, seminars and independent projects. Participation in seminars is mandatory.

Assessment

The assessment is based on:

- active and constructive participation in the lectures and seminars
- class presentations
- an individual course paper

In addition to the regular examinations two extra examinations will be organised every year.

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 be admitted to the Master of Science Programme in Social Science. Students taking the course as a single subject course are eligible after passing courses of at least 150 credits in fully completed courses, 90 of which – including a Bachelor's degree essay – is in Political Science or Peace and Conflict Studies.

Subcourses in STVN13, Political Science: War and Peace in a World in Transition

Applies from V12

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