



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

## **STVN14, Political Science: Political Science Methodology, 15 credits**

*Statsvetenskap: Statsvetenskaplig metodologi, 15 högskolepoäng*  
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2013-06-11 (Dnr S 2013/125). The syllabus comes into effect 2013-06-13 and is valid from the autumn semester 2013.

### **General information**

The course is offered at the second cycle as a compulsory course within the Master's Programme in Political Science.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of study*      *Specialisation*

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

### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

demonstrate in-depth understanding of major research methods and the ability to make use of both quantitative and qualitative research techniques

identify appropriate techniques for different kinds of research questions

apply in-depth understanding of research methods in relation to contemporary issues in Political Science

#### **Competence and skills**

critically assess the utility and appropriateness of diverse methods and techniques for the study of relevant research issues in political science

demonstrate the ability to contribute to a common learning environment.

## Course content

The aim of the course is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the diverse research methods used in political science, and to convey the necessary skills required for their application. Through lectures, seminars and practical workshops, the course will provide students with relevant knowledge of major research methods, their respective uses and usefulness, and their relevance for the study of contemporary research problems in the discipline.

The course begins with an introduction to research design, encompassing both qualitative and quantitative research methods and their uses, seen in relation to the question of validity. Students will be required to study a political science problem assigned to them, applying their knowledge and skills to this problem throughout the course. Techniques for data collection and analyses of interviews, questionnaires, observation, and database material will be taught in workshops. Development of the skills required for both written and oral dissemination of results is also a key feature of the course.

## Course design

The course is given in the form of lectures and workshops. The workshops focus on the practical implementation of diverse research techniques. Students are expected to have read and reflected upon relevant course literature prior to lectures, as well as to come prepared to participate actively in workshops.

Assessment is based on (1) a written and oral presentation of an assigned research problem, (2) practical and written workshop assignments, and (3) active participation in the course in its entirety.

## Assessment

Re-examination is offered after the end of the course. If necessary, a second re-examination is arranged at a later date.

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: 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

Students enrolled in the Master's Programmes at the department of Political Science at Lund University are eligible to the course. Students can also take the course as a single subject course, provided that they have fulfilled course requirements of at least 150 credits, including a Bachelor thesis, in the discipline of political science, peace and

conflict studies, or an equivalent discipline. Students taking the course as a single subject course must demonstrate English B (advanced) proficiency in one of the following ways:

- A pass on English course B (Swedish upper secondary school)
- IELTS score of 6.5 (with no section less than 5.5)
- TOEFL paper-based score of 4.5 (scale 1-6) in written test and a total score of 575; internet based score of 20 (scale 0-30) and a total score of 90
- Cambridge/Oxford – Advanced Certificate of Proficiency
- A Bachelor's degree from a university where English is the only language of instruction, according to the International Handbook of Universities