

## **STVN17, Political Science: Power, Politics and the Environment, 15 credits**

*Statsvetenskap: Makt, politik och miljö, 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 2015-09-16 and was last revised on 2025-10-15. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-01-19 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

### **General information**

This is a second cycle course in Political Science offered to students at Lund University.

*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, students shall demonstrate

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- an understanding of the different concepts of power that are implicit or explicit in key political science theories, and how they are connected to environmental politics and governance

#### **Competence and skills**

- the ability to apply theories and concepts of power to cases of environmental problems, and to critically compare and reflect on the understandings following from different theoretical perspectives
- the ability to present analysis in written and oral form that corresponds to academic standards

- the ability to take responsibility for their learning process and contribute to a collective learning environment.

### **Judgement and approach**

- ability to critically assess different theoretical approaches to power and their value for understanding and explaining real world cases in the field of environmental politics
- ability to reflect on how different concepts of power may be used to analyze drivers of both unsustainable behavior and policies to address it
- ability to contribute to an active learning environment through interventions in plenary discussions, group work and peer feedback.

### **Course content**

For a long time, the question of power has played a minor role in the literature on environmental politics and transformation. This course brings together these two themes. Such a combination is instructive for several reasons. First and generally, applying different theories and their concepts of power provides a range of perspectives for explaining and interpreting environmental governance - and, at the same time, it helps to identify key differences, strengths and weaknesses of the different theories. Second, environmental politics is marked by a high relevance of non-state actors and processes that seek to fill public governance gaps. A power-based focus helps to understand the corresponding power shifts within and between public and private sectors. Third, the diffusion of environmental effects across space and time has altered existing power relations and calls for new conceptualizations of responsibility, legitimacy and justice. Fourth, uncertainty over the causation and consequences of environmental crises has empowered knowledge brokers like scientists and experts and increases the relevance of constructivist concepts like discursive and cognitive power.

### **Course design**

Teaching includes lectures and seminars. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, participation in seminars is compulsory. Students who have been unable to participate due to unforeseen circumstances, accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

### **Assessment**

The assessment of the course is based on active participation in seminars, oral presentations combined with written assignments, and a concluding exam. In order to pass the course, all the assessments need to be successfully completed. In addition to the regular examination, a re-examination is offered in close connection to the regular examination, and a third examination is organized within the same academic year. Within a year after the course has gone through a larger change or ceased, at least two additional examination sessions are offered on the same course content. Thereafter, the student is offered examination sessions but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

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.

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## 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.

For the final course grade, active participation in seminars accounts for 20 percent, oral presentations and written assignments 50 percent, and the concluding exam 30 percent.

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 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