



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

## **STVN20, Political Science: Ontological Security Studies, 15 credits**

*Statsvetenskap: Ontologiska säkerhetsstudier, 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 2020-02-12 to be valid from 2020-02-12, autumn semester 2020.

### **General Information**

The course is given in the second cycle of studies in political science. The course can be read as a freestanding course or in a programme according to programme syllabus.

*Language of instruction:* English

*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**

For a Pass on the course, the student shall

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- show knowledge of different theoretical perspectives on ontological security and uncertainty, and how these theories relate to other types of theories in security policy and international relations
- show knowledge of research issues, methodological questions and research results in the area of ontological security studies

#### **Competence and skills**

- demonstrate the ability to formulate relevant research questions in the field of the course and be able to theorise, generalise and discuss these problems
- be able to summarise and critically review, evaluate and formulate constructive criticism on ontological security studies,
- communicate results of learning processes both orally and in writing, while adhering to given time and space frames

### **Judgement and approach**

- demonstrate the ability to contribute to the joint learning environment and to group dynamic aspects on learning.

### **Course content**

The course covers questions about ontological security and uncertainty in relation to the emergence of radical and populist parties and organisations, and illiberal or authoritarian regimes, Brexit and increased nationalism, mainly in a West-European context. Both normative and empirical questions are discussed. The course addresses the following types of questions:

- Which expressions does the emerging uncertainty take in Europe today, and why?
- Which discourses and practices do actors use, and which logics of security do they relate to?
- What explains the success of populist and authoritarian parties in many European countries?
- Is it possible to justify closed borders and increased security control from a normative point of view, and if so how?

### **Course design**

Teaching takes place in the form of lectures and seminars. Participation in seminars is compulsory unless special circumstances apply. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have missed teaching due to work as a student representative.

### **Assessment**

The course is assessed through active participation in seminars and a written home exam at the end of the course.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. At least two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the end of the course. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered 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.

*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.

As grade, one of the terms A is used, B, C, D, E or failed. 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.

Active participation in seminar discussion accounts for 20 percents of the final grade. The final written test accounts for 80 percents of the final grade.

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**

Admission to the course requires 1-90 credits in political science or peace and conflict studies, including a bachelor thesis, and 60 additional credits in completely completed courses.

## Subcourses in STVN20, Political Science: Ontological Security Studies

Applies from H20

2001 Course paper, 15,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A