



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

STVN22, 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 was approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2021-04-21 to be valid from 2022-08-30, autumn semester 2022.

General Information

The course syllabus is given in the political science related specialisation at second cycle level. The course can be taken as a freestanding course or in a programme according to the 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

After finishing the course, the students should

Knowledge and understanding

- show extensive knowledge of scientific theoretical bases, problems, theorisings, methods and research results in the study of policy processes

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to relate current social problems to the scientific study of policy processes

- demonstrate the ability to summarise, critically review, evaluate and give constructive criticism on scientific studies of policy processes

- demonstrate the ability to in given time and space frames be able to communicate result of learning and research processes to different types of receivers both in writing and orally,
- demonstrate the ability to communicate scientifically and to follow the knowledge development in the subject

Judgement and approach

- show a critical and scientific approach to knowledge, learning policy and society
- be able to contribute to a joint learning environment and group dynamic aspects of learning.

Course content

The theoretical elements of the course take solid on the interplay between relations on three different levels of analysis: norms, institutions and actors. on the one hand the course emphasizes the actors' decision making, governance attempts to steer, and exercise influence. on the other hand it emphasizes how norms and institutions both limit and facilitate the actors' action.

Two analytical problems are addressed in particular:

- How can control take place in public policy? Here, different decision models and control instrument are treated.
- How can democracy and power be exercised? Here, the possibilities of the citizens and different actors to influence on the policy process are problematised.

Both these perspectives assume an understanding of different methodological starting points. The course thus covers different scientific theoretical starting points and procedures in the research about policy processes.

The empirical and more practically orientated contents of the course is based on a number of case studies. In these, policy processes in a number of different fields of politics are treated. The case studies thus give the opportunity to identify similarities and differences in how public policy comes to in different issue areas.

Course design

The course consists of a combination of lectures, seminar exercises and project work in case study groups. Participating seminars and group work are compulsory unless special circumstances apply. An alternative form or date for compulsory components is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. accident, sudden illness or something similar. This also applies to students who have missed classes due to activities as a student representatives.

Assessment

The course is assessed through an individually written take-home exam, the writing of a research proposal (that is carried out in groups), and active participation in the seminar exercises.

In the course, a regular test is offered, a re-examination in close connection to the regular test and an additional test for courses that have been completed during the

previous academic year. Within a year after the course has gone through a larger change or ceased are offered at least two additional examination sessions on the same course content. 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, B, C, D, E or Failed is used. 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 will have shown unacceptable results.

The result on the individually written take-home exam constitutes 50 percents of the grade in the course, the research proposal constitutes 30 percents and active seminar participation constitutes 20 percents.

Entry requirements

Entry to the course requires the completion of 150 credits, including a Bachelor's thesis in political science or an equivalent discipline.

Subcourses in STVN22, Political Science: Policy Processes - Actors,
Causes and Consequences

Applies from H22

2201 Course paper, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A