

## **STVN22, Political Science: Policy Processes - Actors, Causes and Consequences, 15 credits**

*Statsvetenskap: Policyprocesser - aktörer, drivkrafter och konsekvenser, 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 2021-04-21 and was last revised on 2025-03-12. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-09-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

### **General information**

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

*Language of instruction:* English

<i>Main field of study</i>	<i>Specialisation</i>
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Political Science	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
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### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

#### **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 shared 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 stakeholders. On the one hand, the course emphasises the stakeholders' decision making, attempts at control, and ambitions to exercise influence. On the other hand, it emphasizes how norms and institutions both limit and facilitate the stakeholders' actions.

Two analytical problems are addressed in particular:

- How can governance work in public policy? Here, different decision models and instruments of governance are treated.
- How can democracy and power be exercised? Here, opportunities for citizens and various stakeholders to influence 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 research about policy processes.

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

### **Course design**

The course consists of a combination of lectures, seminar exercises and project work in case study groups. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, participation in the group sessions and exercises is compulsory. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances beyond their control such as accidents, sudden illness or similar events will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or resit compulsory components. This also applies to students who have missed teaching sessions due to duties as a student representative.

### **Assessment**

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

The course includes opportunities for assessment at the first examination, a resit close to the first examination and a second resit for courses that have ended during that academic year (catch-up exam). At least two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the course undergoing a major revision or being discontinued. 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.

## **Grades**

Grading scale includes the grades: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

One of the grades A, B, C, D, E or Fail will be awarded. The highest grade is A and the lowest pass grade is E. The grade for unacceptable results is Fail.

The student's results are assessed based on the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E, the student must show adequate 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 has shown inadequate results.

The result on the individual written take-home exam constitutes 40 per cent of the grade for the course, the research proposal constitutes 40 per cent (including individual assessment for the final presentation and discussion) and active seminar participation constitutes 20 per cent.

## **Entry requirements**

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