



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

STVN24, Political Science: Comparative Politics - Institutions and Actors, 15 credits

Statsvetenskap: Jämförande politik - Institutioner och aktörer, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2022-09-14 to be valid from 2023-01-16, spring semester 2023.

General Information

This is a political science course offered as an elective course in the Master of Science Programme in Political Science and the Master of Science Programme in Welfare Policies and Management or as a single subject course.

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

On completion of the course students should demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- knowledge and understanding of research problems, theories and methods in the field of comparative politics, focusing on political regimes and political change, political behaviour and public opinion, political institutions and political actors.

Competence and skills

- ability to apply theories, methods and concepts within the field of comparative politics in a critical way in the analysis of multiple aspects of political institutions and political actors

Judgement and approach

- ability to take responsibility for the own learning process by taking active part in group assignments, seminar discussions and individual assignments.

Course content

The purpose of the course is to deepen students' knowledge and skills in some of the main areas of research in comparative politics. Of particular importance are theories, methods and empirical results that relate to political decision-making in different political systems. The course gives an overview of current debates in the field and gives students the tools to understand and to navigate the increasingly complex political settings that we currently observe in Western democracies and beyond.

The course is structured in four modules: 1) Regimes and political change: this module focuses on the institutional differences between democracies and non-democracies and processes of democratization and democratic backsliding; 2) Political parties and representation: this module is devoted to the study of the linkages between citizens and political authorities in consolidated democracies, with a particular focus on how institutional differences affect the quality of political representation and responsiveness; 3) Legislatures, governments and policy-making: this module centers on post-electoral political processes, such as government formation, and the policy-making of governments; 4) Political behavior and public opinion: this module examines why voters behave the way they do and their responses to government policies and party strategies.

Course design

Teaching takes place in the form of lectures and seminars. Participation in seminars is compulsory. 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 retake compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

Assessment

The course is assessed through active participation in seminars, compulsory written assignments, and a final paper. The course has a regular examination, a re-examination in close connection to the regular examination, and a third examination within one year of the course. 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 current course syllabus.

The examiner can, in consultation, with the university's unit for pedagogical support, decide on alternative forms of examination for students with permanent disabilities. 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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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.

The marking scale is : Fail, E, D, C, B, A. The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. Grade for failed results is denoted with failed. 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

For admission to the course, students are required to have passed studies in political science or peace and conflict studies of 90 credits, including a bachelor thesis in one of these disciplines, and an additional 60 credits of completed courses.

Subcourses in STVN24, Political Science: Comparative Politics - Institutions and Actors

Applies from V23

- 2301 Course paper, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2302 Written assignment 1, 1,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2303 Written assignment 2, 1,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2304 Written assignment 3, 1,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2305 Written assignment 4, 1,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2306 Active participation, 1,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass