



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

STVN25, Political Science: Environmental and Planetary Politics, 15 credits

Statsvetenskap: Miljö- och planetär politik, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2023-05-08 to be valid from 2023-08-28, autumn semester 2023.

General Information

This is a political science course offered at the advanced level as an elective course in master's programs 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 have acquired or demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- a thorough understanding of how and why knowledge and insights from the fields of environmental politics and planetary politics are needed to ensure the habitability of the Earth;
- familiarity with theories and concepts of environmental and planetary politics.

Competence and skills

- critical thinking that problematizes governance regimes and concrete measures to address environmental degradation;
- creativity in responding to concrete research questions within the subject area in innovative and appropriate ways;

- oral and written communication skills to effectively convey ideas connecting environmental politics, planetary politics, and political science.

Judgement and approach

- ability to critically assess empirical evidence and theoretical claims about environmental and planetary politics and practices;
- ability to critically reflect on what and how environmental and planetary politics contribute to the disciplines of political science, public administration, and international relations.
- ability to contribute to an active, group-oriented and reflexive approach to learning.

Course content

Over the past decades it has become increasingly clear that human-driven overconsumption, pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change endanger the habitability of the Earth. Environmental politics involves the study of green political theories, green movements and parties, international agreements and environmental policies. Planetary politics is characterised by eco-centric planetary relations that can only be understood and addressed holistically. The course introduces how both environmental politics and planetary politics are needed to understand why appropriate political action to address overconsumption, pollution issues, biodiversity loss, and climate change have not been achieved and why such action currently remains more or less intangible.

Understanding and explaining these crucial challenges require theoretical and empirical knowledge of power asymmetries, diverging interests and conflicting norms as obstacles to targeted political action and study areas for environmental and planetary politics. At the same time, more critical approaches are needed to comprehend how the current political culture perpetuates rather than addresses environmental degradation. The course thus provides an introduction to the empirical evidence, theoretical understandings, and analytical tools needed to grasp environmental and planetary politics. The course explores environmental and planetary politics in four parts: concepts and theories; policy fields; political levels, and green/sustainable futures.

Course design

The course is based on Active Learning, a group-based pedagogy requiring active participation and group work. Learning activities include lectures, case study work, group-based seminars, and coursework assessment. Participation in all elements is compulsory. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances beyond their own control will be able to compensate this compulsory participation.

Assessment

The course is assessed through active participation in the different learning sessions and through written assignments. Three formative written assignments make up 60 % of the grade, while a summative, final written assignment makes up 40 % of the grade.

The course offers a regular examination, a re-examination in close connection to the

regular examination, and a third examination opportunity within one year of the course. The student who does not take the exam within that year can expect the course contents to have changed though 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 prevalent 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

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. 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 90 credits in political science or peace and conflict studies (or equivalent), including a bachelor thesis in one of these disciplines, and an additional 60 credits of completed courses.