



Faculty of Arts and Social Science  
Political Science

## Syllabus

### Master Thesis in Political Science

<b>Course Code:</b>	SVA510
<b>Course Title:</b>	Master Thesis in Political Science <i>Masteruppsats i statsvetenskap</i>
<b>Credits:</b>	30
<b>Degree Level:</b>	Master's level
<b>Progressive Specialisation:</b>	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

**Major Field of Study:**  
SKA (Political Science)

#### Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Science 2014-11-19, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2015 at Karlstad University.

#### Prerequisites

Political science 90 ECTS cr, including independent project 15 ECTS cr at Bachelor's level and courses in political science at Master's level totalling 45 ECTS cr, including a methods course of 15 ECTS cr. Upper secondary Swedish 3 od B, or Swedish as a second language 3 or B, or equivalent. Upper secondary level English 6 or B or equivalent.

#### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- independently identify and formulate current research problems related to political science,
- identify research fields and perform relevant literature searches,
- plan, carry out and report independent academic works within given time limits,
- perform data collection critically and systematically,
- apply advanced theoretical and methodological knowledge in political science in independent analysis of data and sources,
- give an account of and discuss the theoretical and methodological approaches related to their research project, orally and in writing,
- reflect on scientific, social and ethical issues in the field of political science,
- define, explain and problematise the ethical aspects of research and development,
- identify their need of further knowledge in relation to research in the political science field and take responsibility for updating their knowledge,
- summarise, reconstruct and identify the problems and merits of others' academic works critically and constructively.

#### Content

Students carry out a study and present it in the form of an academic essay or a public inquiry or evaluation of around 50 to 75 pages. The topic and methodological approach are chosen independently

by the student in consultation with the supervisor. The study is an independent project.

Instruction is in the form supervision, individual and/or in groups and joint seminars.

Supervision is only provided for the duration of the course. Reregistered students are offered supervision if circumstances permit.

### **Reading List**

See separate document.

### **Examination**

Learning outcomes are assessed on the basis of an individually written independent work defended at a seminar, including performance as a peer reviewer, and on active participation in mandatory seminars.

Students who have failed to earn a Pass grade for the course may receive further supervision for a period of no more than 6 months, if the examiner approves.

### **Grades**

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

### **Quality Assurance**

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

### **Course Certificate**

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

### **Additional information**

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor's and Master's levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

Students who enrolled before 1 July 2007 will complete their studies in accordance with the requirements of the earlier admission. Upon completion students may request degree and course certificates to be issued under the current ordinance if they meet its requirements.

Required course for the Master's programme in social science with a major in political science.