



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Political Science

# Syllabus

## Power Critical Analysis

<b>Course Code:</b>	SVAM11
<b>Course Title:</b>	Power Critical Analysis <i>Maktkritisk analys</i>
<b>Credits:</b>	7.5
<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 Sciences 2021-09-10, and is valid from the Spring semester 2022 at Karlstad University.

### Prerequisites

90 ECTS credits in Political Science with at least 30 ECTS credits at the G2F level or higher, including a degree project (15 ECTS credits), and upper secondary level Swedish 3 or B or Swedish as a Second Language 3 or B and English 6 or A, or equivalent

### Learning Outcomes

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

1. explain the relation between the ontological, epistemological, and methodological assumptions that characterise power critical analysis,
2. reflect upon power critical analysis in relation to other analytical approaches used in the social sciences,
3. compare and contrast discourse theory, governmentality theory, and assemblage theory as power critical perspectives, and
4. apply discourse theory, governmentality theory, and assemblage theory in the analysis of

contemporary social phenomena.

### **Content**

This is a specialisation course on power critical studies of social phenomena. It comprises two different components. The first component requires students to study, discuss, and review the basic assumptions of power critical studies through a focus on the relation between ontology, epistemology, and methodology. Power critical perspectives are also contrasted with other prominent analytical approaches used in the social sciences, such as institutionalism and rational choice. The second component introduces three different models as examples of approaches that can be used for power critical analysis. Students work actively to analyse contemporary social phenomena based on discourse theory, governmentality theory, and assemblage theory.

### **Reading List**

See separate document.

### **Examination**

Assessment is based on individual written hand-in assignments and oral participation in seminar discussions.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

### **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 and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.