



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Political Science

Syllabus

Resilient democracy

Course Code:

SVAP13

Course Title:

Resilient democracy

Motståndskraftig demokrati

Credits:

7.5

Degree Level:

Master's level

Progressive

Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Specialisation:

(A1N)

Major Field of Study:

SKA (Political Science)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2025-03-05, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2025 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

At least 90 ECTS credits, with at least 30 ECTS credits at the G2F level or higher, in Political Science or related main fields of study like Sociology, Psychology, Philosophy, Media and Communication Studies, History, Social Science, and Human Geography, including a degree project of at least 15 ECTS credits at the G2E level, and upper secondary level Swedish 3 and English 6/A, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

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

1. identify and analyse underlying causes of the spread of disinformation and misinformation from resilience and systems perspectives,
2. apply direct and indirect strategies and measures aimed at countering and limiting the spread of disinformation and misinformation, and at strengthening the resilience of democracies, and
3. problematise and reflect upon the limitations of direct and indirect strategies and measures in countering the dissemination of disinformation and misinformation and in promoting resilient democracies.

Content

Democratic institutions are characterised by respect for fundamental democratic principles, that is, individual freedoms and rights, and the equal value of all people. The dissemination of disinformation and misinformation poses a threat to public discourse and by extension to interpersonal trust and trust in democratic institutions. The course adopts a broad systems perspective on the threats that disinformation and misinformation pose to contemporary democracies, with particular emphasis on how these threats can be countered in light of more general challenges and risks facing democratic systems and societies. A central focus of the course is developing an understanding of the underlying causes of disinformation and misinformation dissemination, the consequences of this spread, and how it can be addressed through both direct and indirect strategies and measures.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is individual and based on written hand-in assignments, a written take-home exam, and active participation in seminars.

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.