



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Political Science

## Syllabus

### Artificial intelligence (AI) and institutional capacity

<b>Course Code:</b>	SVAP22
<b>Course Title:</b>	Artificial intelligence (AI) and institutional capacity <i>Artificiell intelligens (AI) och institutionell kapacitet</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 2025-09-12, and is valid from the Spring semester 2026 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 areas of study such as Sociology, Psychology, Philosophy, Media and Communication Studies, History, Civics, and Human Geography, including an independent project of at least 15 ECTS credits at the G2E level, and upper secondary level Swedish 3 and English 6 or Swedish level 3 and English level 2, or equivalent

#### Learning Outcomes

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

1. identify and problematise key concepts within the field of institutional capacity,
2. give an account of and reflect critically upon the relationship between AI and institutional capacity, and
3. analyse and reflect critically upon the relationship between AI and democratic principles.

#### Content

Institutional capacity refers to the ability of public institutions to fulfill their mandates, even under pressure. Robust institutions are a prerequisite for a resilient democracy capable of withstanding various forms of threats and challenges. This course examines institutional capacity in relation to artificial intelligence (AI) with a focus on how AI technologies such as algorithmic manipulation, deepfakes, and automated propaganda affect the ability of democratic institutions to manage threats. The course provides an overview of how Swedish public administration has changed over the past twenty years, with particular emphasis on the increasing use of AI technologies. Through an in-depth study of examples such as automated decision-making, the course analyses how these technologies impact key democratic principles such as accountability and transparency, and the consequences for citizen insight and influence.

#### Reading List

See separate document.

#### Examination

Assessment is based on individual written hand-in assignments presented and discussed in seminars and an individual written take-home exam.

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.