



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Political Science

Syllabus

Independent research project master in political science

Course Code:

SVAP25

Course Title:

Independent research project master in political science
Självständigt arbete - magister i statsvetenskap

Credits:

15

Degree Level:

Master's level

Progressive

Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits) (A1E)

Specialisation:

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. independently identify and formulate a political science research problem related to disinformation and psychological defense, and concretise this into a purpose and research questions,
2. identify relevant political science research fields within the area of disinformation and psychological defense and carry out literature searches,
3. carry out data collection critically and systematically,
4. apply advanced theoretical and methodological knowledge in political science to independent analyses of material relevant to disinformation and psychological defense, and present these in relation to current research,
5. define, explain, and problematise ethical aspects of political science research and development work related to psychological defense and disinformation,
6. plan, conduct, and present in writing an independent research project within given time frames, and defend it in a final seminar,
7. describe process, results, and analysis, and discuss conclusions in well-structured written form, and
8. critically and constructively summarise and identify strengths and weaknesses in others' political science work related to psychological defense and disinformation, and perform as a peer reviewer of another student's research project.

Content

Students complete a research project and present it the form of a scientific thesis. Students choose the topic and methodological approach of their study independently in consultation with the supervisor, and conduct the research independently.

Instruction is in the form of individual and/or group supervision and seminars. Supervision is provided for the duration of the course. Reregistered students are only offered supervision if circumstances permit.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Learning outcomes 1-7 are assessed based on an independent research project defended in a final seminar. Learning outcome 8 is assessed based on performance as a peer reviewer.

The number of assessment opportunities is limited to five.

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.