



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Political Science

Syllabus

European Studies

Course Code:

SVGA17

Course Title:

European Studies

Europakunskap

Credits:

15

Degree Level:

Undergraduate level

Progressive

First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry

Specialisation:

requirements (G1N)

Major Field of Study:

SKA (Political Science)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2020-03-13, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2020 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

General admission requirements

Learning Outcomes

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

1. compare changes in today's EU from a modern historical perspective,
2. give a general account of the current political situation in Europe in relation to the European integration process,
3. describe the political institutions of the EU in terms of purpose, competence, and relation to the member states,
4. explain different types of integration efforts,
5. use basic concepts and theories in the subject area of European politics, and

6. identify and review various contexts and structures in the European integration process.

Content

This is a Political Science course, and Political Science perspectives dominate, although historical, economic, geographical, and sociological perspectives are also addressed since European Studies is a multidisciplinary field. The aim is to provide a good basis for a critical and analytical approach. Students develop the ability to recognise structures and contexts of societal development and to analyse and interpret courses of events.

The course comprises two course modules as follows:

Module 1: Continuity and Change in Europe, 7.5 credits

This module gives an introduction to the tradition of ideas and the basic concepts and theories studied within the subject area of European politics. The module comprises five themes, each of which represents a perspective on how political processes at the European level can be studied. Central theoretical subject areas include theories on integration and questions such as - How is the EU to be understood? What role do EU institutions and EU policy play in the integration process? and What role does the EU play in international politics? The EU as a political system and a phenomenon is considered in relation to a historical context. Since this is a distance course, both modules include at least one mandatory seminar in which students present their knowledge orally. These seminars are scheduled for each semester.

Module 2: Specialisation and Individual Project, 7.5 credits

This is a specialisation module which includes an independent project. The module is divided into two parts. Part one is based on a current situation or event in EU politics. Part two comprises independent reading and writing assignments. Students are expected to present an independently written text investigating a chosen problem area relevant to the course content. Students are expected to adhere consistently to recognised academic conventions for presentation and referencing. Students present their projects in a seminar at the end of the course, where they are analysed and discussed in terms of problem selection and results. Since this is a distance course, both modules include at least one mandatory seminar in which students present their knowledge orally. These seminars are scheduled for each semester.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on individual written take-home exams and active participation in seminars.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to special pedagogical 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.