



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Political Science

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 14 March 2014, and is valid from the Autumn semester of 2014 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: SVGA50

Political Science, 30.0 ECTS Credits

(Statsvetenskap A, 30.0 Swedish credit points)

Degree Level: Bachelor

Progressive Specialisation: G1N (First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements)

Language of Instruction

The language of instruction is Swedish, but the whole course or components of the course may be taught in another Nordic language or English.

Prerequisites

General admission requirements

Major Field of Study

SKA (Political Science)

Learning Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of politics in Sweden, other countries, and in the international system.
- Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of contemporary and historical political ideas and ideologies, and be able to use key perspectives and concepts of the main subject area.
- Demonstrate basic skills and abilities to independently search and collect information for critical review and interpretation. The information will then be communicated both in writing and orally, both individually and in groups. The students should be able to display their skills and abilities both in discussions and in their own writing. These skills and abilities will prepare the students for further studies in the main subject area, as well as serve as the basis for further development of their knowledge of and skills in investigations and research.

Content and Form of Instruction

The course comprises four modules covering different perspectives and research areas of political science. The course contains the following modules:

Module 1: Political Ideas

The module gives an introduction to the study of political science. Basic concepts such as politics, state, society,

and citizen are introduced. A selection of perspectives on the basic concepts discussed in political philosophy and political theory are covered, as well as the central characteristics of political ideologies. The module also relates the political ideas to the forms of the surrounding society. The methodological components include basic training in political analysis, such as analysis of ideas.

Module 2: Political Institutions

The module takes as its point of departure a political perspective that focuses on the political institutions. The constitutional framing of institutions and processes on the local, regional, national, and supranational levels are studied, mainly from a Swedish perspective but also in comparison to other countries: Basic concepts in discussing the significance of political institutions are presented. Means of management and control, organs of state, parties, and other actors are covered. The methodological components include basic training in political analysis, such as policy analysis and comparative analysis.

Module 3: Political Participation

The module takes a broad conception of politics as its point of departure and studies other forms and aspects of politics than the purely institutional. The political forms are treated both from actual and normative perspectives, as well as the appearance of these forms and the values that can be ascribed to them. Political aspects are used in order to perceive and understand politics from various perspectives, such as participation, deliberation, gender, governance, and power. The methodological components include basic training in political analysis, such as political behavior and discursive approaches.

Module 4: Politics in the International Arena

The module gives an introduction to Swedish foreign- and security policy, international relations, and the origin, rise, and main actors of the international system. Basic theories and concepts of the main subject area are covered. The modern international political history is studied with a focus on the different international orders that emerged after 1918, 1945, and 1989, as well as the European process of integration after 1945. There will be an especial emphasis on Swedish foreign policy, the foreign political maps of the great powers, the UN and the EU as international actors, and foreign aid policies. The methodological components include basic training in analysis of international political phenomena using relevant theories and concepts.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Examination is in the form of written exams and individual and group assignments that may be both in oral and written form.

The number of examination opportunities is limited to five (SFS:2004:289).

Grades

One of the grades Fail (U), Pass (G), or Distinction (VG) is awarded in the examination of the course and its modules. In order to achieve the grade Distinction for the entire course at least 15 ECTS Credits (50%) of the modules must be awarded Distinction.

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 assessment is based on student views and experiences as reported in written course evaluations and/or group discussions. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of the measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional Information

Students who enrolled before 1 July 2007 will complete their studies in accordance with the requirements of the earlier admission. Upon completion students may request degree and course certificates to be issued under the current ordinance if they meet its requirements.

The course overlaps with the distance learning courses SVGA21, SVGA22, SVGA23 and SVGA24. Overlapping courses cannot be part of the degree. It is possible to transfer credits between these courses and SVGA20.

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor's and Master's levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

The course is a mandatory part of the Political Science Programme (Politices kandidat).

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