

Syllabus

for course at first level

Political Science I

Statsvetenskap på engelska I

30.0 Higher Education

Credits

30.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	SV100E
Valid from:	Autumn 2013
Date of approval:	2007-10-25
Changed:	2013-02-21
Department	Department of Political Science
Main field:	Political Science
Specialisation:	G1N - First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Decision

The syllabus has been approved by the Head of the Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, 2007-10-25. Date of latest revision, 2012-03-13.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Swedish upper secondary school courses English B and Social Studies A, or equivalent.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
1001	Political Theory	7.5
1002	Swedish Politics	7.5
1003	Comparative Politics	7.5
1004	International Politics	7.5

Course content

Political science is the study of politics. Political Science I provides a broad introduction to the subject. The aim of the teaching is to stimulate independent analyses and a problematising approach to political phenomena. The course will provide knowledge of essential political problems and concepts. It will deal with ideas, institutions and processes in the course parts political theory, Swedish politics and public administration, comparative politics, and international politics. The knowledge of politics will be put in a scientific context and discussed from different theoretical perspectives. The course will introduce tools for the students to use for independently interpreting, scrutinising and evaluating scientific results.

Learning outcomes

After completing the course the student should be able to - Account for:

- central political theories and ideologies, in oral as well as written form
 - the main outlines of Swedish political history, how the political system of today should be understood in a historical context, the principles of the Swedish constitution and how the relation politics–administration is reflected in Swedish politics
 - different theoretical perspectives of comparative politics and fundamental aspects of different political systems
 - the European integration process and the main outlines of the international political system's institutional construction, historical development and contemporary alteration tendencies.
- Understand and exemplify:
- central political theories and ideologies, and fundamental political-theoretical problems

- central aspects of Swedish political culture
- different theoretical perspectives of comparative politics and aspects of different political systems
- central theoretical perspectives and concepts in the study of international politics.
- Apply and use:
 - fundamental political-theoretical concepts of phenomena, events and theories, both in a historical perspective and in contemporary politics
 - theoretical perspectives and central political science concepts, starting from historical and contemporary examples in Swedish politics
 - fundamental concepts, theoretical ideas and comparative methods on political systems as well as phenomena and events related to political systems
 - theoretical perspectives and concepts starting from historical and contemporary examples of international threats of conflict and efforts for peace.
- Value, compare and contrast:
 - central theoretical perspectives and concepts when studying political ideas, Swedish politics, analysis of different political systems and European and international politics.

Education

The course is based on lectures and seminars. The seminars are compulsory.

Forms of examination

The types of examination vary depending on the course module. Three different types of examination are being used: sit-down exam, take home exam and assignments. For the grading, the course will employ a scale of seven steps, where A, B, C, D and E signify multiple degrees of pass, and F and Fx signify two degrees of fail. The grading criteria will be distributed at the beginning of the course.

The maximum number of examinations is five.

For course parts with examination through a take-home exam or an independent project it may be possible for a student to supplement the examination task if she or he is close to passing. In such cases the complementary work must be submitted within a week from when the examining teacher has informed the student about the task. If the complementary task is accepted and has the character of supplementing a lack of understanding, a minor misunderstanding, minor errors, or too limited discussions for some part, the grade E will be applied. If the complementary task is accepted and has the character of simple formal errors the grades A–E will be applied. Please note that a student may supplement the examination task only if information about this possibility is included in the supervising description of the course in question. It is never possible to complement a formal written exam (in auditorium, so-called "salsskrivning").

Interim

When the course is no longer offered or when its content has been significantly modified, the student has the right to be examined according to this syllabus once each semester during a period of three semesters.

Misc

The course cannot be part of a degree where any of the following courses are included: Statsvetenskap I (SVS100), Grundkurs i statsvetenskap (SV1160), Basic Level in Political Science (SV1520), Political Science I (SVE100 and SV100E), Samhällskunskap I (SV10SK), Grundkurs i samhällskunskap (SK1060 or SK1030), Introduktionskurs i svensk och internationell politik (SV1430, SVS143 and SV143S), Introduktionskurs i Politisk teori och komparativ politik (SV1440, SVS144 and SV144S), Statsvetenskap inom förvaltningslinjen (FH8110 or FH8280), or Kompletteringskurs i internationell politik (SV1330).

Required reading

COURSE MODULE 1: POLITICAL THEORY, 7.5 credits

DESCRIPTION

The course offers an introduction to the study of political theory. The course is thematic, focusing on central concepts and problems from a contemporary as well as historical perspective. Influential and contrasting theories about democracy, freedom, justice, power, gender, multiculturalism and globalization are explained and discussed. The course emphasizes independent analysis and evaluation of theoretical texts and political-theoretical arguments.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- Give an account of central contemporary and historical political theories both in oral and written form in a scientific way.
- Understand and exemplify central political theories, problems and arguments as well as their basic

premises.

- Apply and use basic concepts in political theory to the understanding of contemporary and historical phenomena in politics.
- Compare, contrast, evaluate and criticize important political theories and arguments.
- Compose political theoretical texts independently discussing political-theoretical problems.

READINGS

Farrelly, Colin (ed) (2004), *Contemporary Political Theory: A Reader*. Sage.

Lukes, Steven (2005), *Power. A Radical View*. 2nd edition. Palgrave.

McKinnon, Catriona (ed) (2008), *Issues in Political Theory*. Oxford University Press.

Further reading-material may be included (up to 100 pages), provided by the seminar-teacher

COURSE MODULE 2: SWEDISH POLITICS, 7.5 credits

DESCRIPTION

With the Swedish political system as a starting point the basis for the course will be an analysis of the distribution of formal and informal political power and how the constitutional ideals are implemented in reality in a Western democracy. The emphasis will be on institutions and structures such as the constitution, the electoral system, the government and the parliament, local and regional government, the political parties, the mass media, the interest groups, the idea of democracy and ways and means for citizens to participate in the decision making process. Furthermore, the relations between the EU institutions and the Swedish government will be highlighted.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students are expected to have achieved basic knowledge of important institutions and processes in the Swedish political/administrative system. More specifically, students are expected to be able to:

1. Describe basic perspectives and key concepts in the study of Swedish politics. They should also be able to describe the political system of Sweden, its historical development, main features and functions, and major challenges.
2. Apply basic perspectives and key concepts on the case of Sweden.
3. Compare and contrast various perspectives and key concepts and on basis of this analysis discuss and evaluate the political system of Sweden.

READINGS

Bale, Tim (2013). *European Politics. A comparative introduction*. 3rd edition. Hampshire: Palgrave

McCormick (2011). *Understanding the European Union. A concise introduction*. 5th edition. 220 pages.

Freidenvall, Lenita (2013). "Sweden: Step by Step - Women's Inroads to Parliamentary Politics". In: Drude Dahlerup and Monique Leyenaar (eds.), *Breaking Male Dominance in Old Democracies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013 (forthcoming).

Dahlerup, Drude (2013). "Trajectories and Processes of Change in Women's Representation." In: Drude Dahlerup and Monique Leyenaar (eds.), *Breaking Male Dominance in Old Democracies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013 (forthcoming).

Larsson, Torbjörn (2013). *Governing Sweden*, 100 pages.

COURSE MODULE 3, COMPARATIVE POLITICS, 7,5 hp

DESCRIPTION

The course part aims at providing an introduction to the field of comparative politics. Various theoretical perspectives and basic concepts within the field are taken up. The political systems of a number of countries - in relation to formal political institutions and informal aspects of the political order - are presented, discussed and compared. Issues of identity as well as the position of nation-states in a global context are also dealt with. The course part includes an introduction to comparative method and sources of knowledge about political systems.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

Upon completion of the course part, students are expected to be able to:

- * provide accounts of various theoretical perspectives and basic concepts within the field of comparative politics;
- * provide accounts of the political systems of a number of countries.

Skills and Abilities

Upon completion of the course part, students are expected to be able to:

- * apply theoretical perspectives and basic concepts within the field of comparative politics to phenomena and events related to the political systems of various countries;
- * compare and contrast the political systems of various countries with the help of relevant theoretical perspectives and concepts.

EVALUATION AND APPROACH

Upon completion of the course part, students are expected to be able to:

- * critically examine and evaluate arguments for and against different theoretical perspectives and different political systems or elements of political systems in a manner that is well supported and justified.

READINGS

Lane, Ruth (1997), "Political Development, Its Rise, Decline, and Transformation" (excerpt), *The Art of Comparative Politics*, Allyn & Bacon, pp. 52-71.

Newton, Kenneth & van Deth, Jan W. (2010), *Foundations of Comparative Politics*, Second Edition, Cambridge University Press.

Sainsbury, Diane (1999), "Gender and Social-Democratic Welfare States" (excerpt), in Sainsbury, Diane (ed.), *Gender and Welfare State Regimes*, pp. 77- 80.

Sainsbury, Diane (1999), "Gender, Policy Regimes, and Politics" (excerpt), in Sainsbury, Diane (ed.), *Gender and Welfare State Regimes*, pp. 245- 261.

Wallerstein, Immanuel (1991), "Class Conflict in the Capitalist World-Economy", in Balibar, Étienne & Wallerstein, Immanuel, *Race, Nation, Class: Ambiguous Identities*, Verso, pp. 115-124.

Wallerstein, Immanuel (1991), "The Ideological Tensions of Capitalism: Universalism versus Racism and Sexism", in Balibar, Étienne & Wallerstein, Immanuel, *Race, Nation, Class: Ambiguous Identities*, Verso, pp. 29-36.

Wallerstein, Immanuel (2004), "The Rise of the States-System: Sovereign Nation-States, Colonies, and the Nation-State System", in *World-Systems Analysis. An Introduction*, Duke University Press, pp. 42-59.

Additional material in a compendium or online may be included (max 250 pages).

A significant portion of the course material will be comprised of information on various websites.

COURSE MODULE 4: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, 7.5 credits

DESCRIPTION

The course part gives an introduction to the study of international politics, international conflicts and international cooperation as theoretical problems. Theoretical perspectives and concepts in the study of international politics are discussed, as well as perspectives on systems and actors in the analyses of international politics. The course part also deals with international conflicts and cooperation in world politics in the 20th century, in addition to issues of development and international political economy. Finally, subjects such as the EU as a global actor, the design and methods of international organisations, and the tendencies of change in the international system will be discussed.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and understanding:

Upon completion of the course the student is expected to be able to:

- account for essential contemporary theoretical perspectives and concepts in the study of international politics, important aspects of the UN system, the EU as a global actor, efforts towards cooperation and development, and contemporary tendencies of change in the international system.
- explain and exemplify theoretical development within the subject of international politics in relation to historical and contemporary examples of international threats of conflicts, cooperation problems and peace efforts.

Skills and abilities:

Upon completion of the course the student is expected to be able to:

- apply essential theoretical perspectives and concepts in the study of international politics, with historical and contemporary examples as point of departure.

Evaluation and approach:

Upon completion of the course the student is expected to be able to:

- value, compare and contrast different theoretical perspectives and concepts in the study of European and international politics.
- combine and relate different theoretical perspectives in a critical analysis of current problems in European and international politics.

READINGS

Baylis, John, Smith, Steve & Owens, Patricia (2011), *The Globalization of World Politics. An Introduction to International Relations*. Fifth edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 500 pages (selected chapters)

Nye, Joseph S. & David A. Welch (2010), *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation. An Introduction to Theory and History*. Harlow: Pearson Education, 352 pages

Selection of articles for seminars.