

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Analytical Perspectives and the Study of Power in the Social Sciences, in 15.0 Higher Education

English

Credits

Samhällsvetenskapliga analysinriktningar och studier av makt, på engelska

15.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	SV7054
Valid from:	Autumn 2015
Date of approval:	2009-08-19
Changed:	2015-02-24
Department	Department of Political Science
Main field:	Political Science
Specialisation:	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

This syllabus has been approved by the Head of the Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, 2009-08-19.

Date of latest revision, 2015-02-24

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

A Bachelor of Arts Degree (180 ECTS credit points or the equivalent), with a major in political science.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
7054	Analytical Perspective and the Study of Power	15

Course content

The aim of this course is to give students a deeper knowledge on a number of central analytical approaches to the study of politics, as well as a deeper knowledge on how power can be understood - both explicit and implicit - and studied with these analytical approaches as a basis. The students shall reach a deepened understanding of how various empirical studies are more or less characterized, or affected, by the choice of analytical approach. The central analytical approaches are: rational choice, structuralism, post structuralism, constructivism and normative theory.

Learning outcomes

1. Knowledge and Understanding

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

- explain, illustrate and compare core components and assumptions characteristic of the central analytical approaches
- relate the analytical approaches to theories of political power broadly-conceived as well as the interplay of power and norms in politics

2. Skills and Abilities

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

- review and examine how the analytical approaches can be used to study political power broadly-conceived
- identify and contrast the underlying theoretical assumptions of the analytical approaches to politics

3.Evaluation and Approach

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

- critically assess the analytic approaches and the study of political power broadly-conceived with regard to their theoretical premises and underlying norms and their application in empirical research
- develop and motivate scientifically one's own conclusions and arguments based on the analytical approaches

Education

The course includes both lectures and seminars of which some are compulsory. Information on how to supplement absence will be provided at the beginning of the course.

Forms of examination

Some of the teaching sessions are compulsory. Examinations will be continuingly through out the course and/or at the end of the course. Exams may be written or oral.

A seven steps grading scale is used for grading. A, B, C, D and E are degrees of a passed grade. F and Fx are degrees of a failed grade. It is possible for a student to supplement an examination if the obtained grade is Fx and information about this possibility is included in the provided course information. Upon being informed of the need for supplement by the examiner, the supplementary task must be submitted within five working days. If the examination supplement is accepted and has the character of supplementing a lack of understanding, minor misunderstanding, minor errors or too limited discussions for some part, the grade E will be applied. If the supplementary task is accepted and has the character of simple formality corrections, the grades A-E will be applied.

At the beginning of the course, grading criteria will be provided. Students who have failed the course twice have the right to request another examiner. This request should be addressed to the department unit that has appointed the examiner. A student that has passed an exam may not take part in a re-examination in order to obtain a higher grade.

Interim

When this 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 language of instruction is English.

Required reading

*Becker, Gary S. (1992): "The Economic Way of Looking at Life", Nobel Lecture December 9 1992. (20 p.)

*Berger, Peter L. & Luckmann, Thomas (1966): *The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge*. New York: Penguin Books, p. 65-109. (44 p.)

*Bryson, Valerie (2004): "Marxism and feminism: Can the unhappy marriage be saved?", *Journal of Political Ideologies*, vol 9 no 1, p 13-30. (17 p.)

*Butler, Judith (1993): "Bodies That Matter", chapter 1 in *Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of "Sex"*. London: Routledge, p. 27-55. (28 p.)

*Downs, Anthony (1957): "An Economic Theory of Political Action in a Democracy," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 65, No. 2: 135-150. (16 p.)

*Durkheim, Émile (2006): *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. London: Penguin. Chapter 1, p. 329-361 in part 3. (33 p.)

*Eriksson, Lina (2011): *Rational Choice Theory: Potential and Limits*. Palgrave MacMillan. (selection 150 p.)

- *Essed, Philomena (2002): "Everyday Racism," in Goldberg, Theo & Solomos, John (eds.) *A Companion to Racial and Ethnic Studies*. Oxford, UK: Blackwell. (15 p.)
- *Finnemore, Martha (1996): *National Interests in International Society*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, p. 1-33, 69-88. (52 p.)
- *Gaventa, John (1982): *Power and Powerlessness. Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley*. Champaign, Illinois: Oxford University Press. (77 p.)
- *Guzzini, Stefano (2005): "The Concept of Power: A Constructivist Analysis", *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, vol. 33, no. 3, p. 495-521. (26 p.)
- *Hacking, Ian (1999): *The Social Construction of What?* Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, p. 1-34. (34 p.)
- *Howarth, David and Stavrakakis, Yannis (2000): "Introducing Discourse Theory", in D. Howarth, A.J. Norval and Y. Stavrakakis (red.), *Discourse Theory and Political Analysis: Identities, Hegemonies and Social Change*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, p. 1-23. (22 p.)
- *McGowan, Kate (2006): "Structuralism and Semiotics", in S. Malpas and P. Wake (red.), *The Routledge Companion to Critical Theory*. London: Routledge, p. 3-13. (10 p.)
- *Miller, David (2013): *Political Philosophy for Earthlings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (24 p.)
- *Nietzsche, Friedrich (1873): "On Truth and Falsity in the Extra-Moral Sense." (ca 10 p.)
- *Nussbaum, Martha (2003): "Human Capabilities, Female Human Beings," in Johnathan Glover and Martha Nussbaum., eds. *Women, Culture, and Development: A Study of Human Capabilities*. Oxford: Oxford Scholarship Online. (55 p.)
- *Rawls, John (1973): *A Theory of Justice*, Harvard University Press. (36 p.)
- *Sayyid, Bobby and Zac, Lilian (1998): "Political Analysis in a World Without Foundations", in E. Scarbrough and E. Tanenbaum (red.), *Research Strategies in the Social Sciences: A Guide to New Approaches*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 250-267. (17 p.)
- *Scanlon, Thomas (1998): *What We Owe to Each Other*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University press p. 189-247. (66 p.)
- *Searle, John R. (1995): *The Construction of Social Reality*. London: Penguin Books, p.1-30. (30 p.)
- *Sewell Jr., William (1992): "A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency and Transformation," *The American Journal of Sociology* 98 (1): (29 p.)
- *Singer, Peter (2005): "Ethics and Intuitions". *The Journal of Ethics* 9:331-352. (22 p.)
- *Smith, Anna Marie (1998): Laclau and Mouffe: *The Radical Democratic Imaginary*. London: Routledge, chapter 3: "Subject Positions, Articulation and the Subversion of Essentialism", p. 84-116 and chapter 5: "Power and Hegemony", p. 151-176. (57 p.).
- *Walzer, Michael (1987): "Interpretation and Social Criticism." *Tanner Lectures*. (60 p.)
- *Wendt, Alexander (1995): "Constructing International Politics", *International Security*, vol. 20, no. 1, p. 71-81. (10 p.)
- *Yuval-Davis, Nira (2006): "Intersectionality and Feminist Politics", *European Journal of Women's Studies*, vol 13 no 3, p.193-209. (16 p.)
- *Young, Iris Marion. 1990. "Socialist Feminism and the Limits of Dual Systems Theory" in *Throwing Like a Girl and Other Essays*. Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press. p. 21-35. (14 p.)

*Žižek, Slavoj (2008 [1989]): "Che vuoi?", chapter 3 in *The Sublime Object of Ideology*. London: Verso Books, p. 95-144. (49 p.)