

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 2016
Date of approval:	2009-08-19
Changed:	2016-06-27
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, 2016-06-27.

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

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

1. Knowledge and Understanding

- 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

- 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

- 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

Bacchi, Carol (1999). "Women, Policy and Politics: The Construction of Policy Problems." London, England: Sage, pp. 1-14, 72-93.

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

Coleman, James (1994). "Foundations of Social Theory." Cambridge: Harvard UP. pp. 1-23. (Extra reading: ch. 10-11.)

dalla Costa, Mairarosa & Selma James (1971). "The Power of Women and the Subversion of Community." Petroleuse press. (35 pages.)

Durkheim, Émile (2006). "Suicide: A Study in Sociology." London: Penguin. Ch. 1, pp. 329-361 of part 3. (33 pages.)

Eriksson, Lina (2011). "Rational Choice Theory: Potential and Limits." Palgrave MacMillan. (Selection of 150 pages.)

Finnemore, Martha & Kathryn Sikkink (1998). "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." International organization 52, no. 04 1998: 887-917.

Guzzini, Stefano (2005). "The Concept of Power: A Constructivist Analysis." Millennium: Journal of

International Studies, vol. 33, no. 3: 495-521.

Harsanyi, John (1982). "Morality and the Theory of Rational Behavior", in Sen, Amartya & Bernard Williams (eds), "Utilitarianism and Beyond". Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 39-62.

Marsh, David & Gerry Stoker (2010). "Theory and Methods in Political Science." Palgrave MacMillan. (Selection of approximately 200 pages.)

Marx, Karl (1971/1857). "Introduction to the Contribution to a Critique of Political Economy."

McGowan, Kate (2006). "Structuralism and Semiotics", in Malpas, Simon & Paul Wake (eds), "The Routledge Companion to Critical Theory". London: Routledge, pp. 3-13.

Mouffe, Chantal (2013). "For an Agonistic Model of Democracy", in Martin, James (ed), "Chantal Mouffe: Hegemony, Radical Democracy and the Political". London: Routledge. pp. 191-206.

Nietzsche, Friedrich (2006). "On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense", in Pearson, Keith A. & Duncan Large (eds), "The Nietzsche Reader". Malden, MA: Blackwell. pp. 118-119.

Nussbaum, Martha C. (1995). "Human Capabilities, Female Human Beings", i Nussbaum, Martha & Jonathan Glover (red), "Women, Culture, and Development: A Study of Human Capabilities". Oxford: Clarendon Press. pp. 61-104.

Peters, B. Guy (2011). "Institutional Theory in Political Science: The New Institutionalism." Bloomsbury Publishing USA. (Ch. 6-7.)

Powell, John A. (2007). "Structural Racism: Building upon the Insights of John Calmore." N.C. L. Rev. 791 (2007). (27 pages.)

Rawls, John (1973). "A Theory of Justice." Harvard: Harvard University Press. (Selection of 15 pages.)

Risse, Thomas (2000). "'Let's Argue!': Communicative Action in World Politics." International organization, 54(01). pp. 1-39.

Scanlon, Thomas (1982). "Contractualism and Utilitarianism", in Sen, Amartya & Bernard Williams (ed), "Utilitarianism and Beyond". Cambridge: Cambridge University Press pp. 103-128.

Schmidt, Vivien A. (2008). "Discursive Institutionalism: The Explanatory Power of Ideas and Discourse." Political science, 11(1). pp. 303-326.

Scott, Joan Wallach (1988). "Deconstructing Equality-versus-Difference: Or, the Uses of Poststructuralist Theory for Feminism." Feminist Studies, 14(1). pp. 32-50.

Sewell Jr., William (1992). "A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency and Transformation." The American Journal of Sociology 98 (1). pp. 1-29.

Smith, Anna Marie (1998). "Laclau and Mouffe: The Radical Democratic Imaginary." London: Routledge. pp. 84-115, 151-176.

Stavrakakis, Yannis (2007). "The Lacanian Left: Psychoanalysis, Theory, Politics." Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. pp.163-210.

Thomson, Judith J. (1985). "The Trolley Problem." The Yale Law Journal, Vol. 94, No. 6 May (1985). pp. 1395-1415.

Torring, Jacob (2005). "Discourse Theory: Achievements, Arguments, and Challenges", in "Discourse Theory in European Politics: Identity, Policy and Governance". Basingstoke, England: Palgrave Macmillan. pp. 1-32.

Walzer, Michael (1987). "Interpretation and Social Criticism". Tanner Lectures. (60 pages.)

Wendt, Alexander (1995). "Constructing International Politics." International Security, vol. 20, no. 1. pp. 71-81.

Yuval-Davis, Nira (2006). "Intersectionality and Feminist Politics." *European Journal of Women's Studies* vol 13 no 3, pp.193-209.