

Syllabus

for course at first level

Political Science in English I
Statsvetenskap på engelska I

30.0 Higher Education
Credits
30.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	SVE001
Valid from:	Autumn 2017
Date of approval:	2017-03-21
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 Department Board of the Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, 2017-03-21.

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.

The course comprises four course modules.

Course module Political Theory, 7.5 credits:

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.

Course module Swedish Politics, 7.5 credits:

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.

Course module Comparative Politics, 7.5 credits:

The course module aims at providing an introduction to the field of comparative politics. Key theoretical perspectives and basic concepts within the field are taken up. Different political systems - 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 module includes an introduction to comparative method and to sources of knowledge about political systems.

Course module International Politics, 7.5 credits:

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

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.

In order to pass the course module Political Theory, 7.5 credits, 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.

In order to pass the course module Swedish Politics, 7.5 credits, students are expected to be able 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:
- 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.
- Apply basic perspectives and key concepts on the case of Sweden.
- Compare and contrast various perspectives and key concepts and on basis of this analysis discuss and evaluate the political system of Sweden.

In order to pass the course module Comparative Politics, 7.5 credits, students are expected to be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding:

- * provide accounts of key theoretical perspectives and basic concepts within the field of comparative politics;
- * provide accounts of different political systems.

Skill and Ability:

- * apply key theoretical perspectives and basic concepts within the field of comparative politics to phenomena and events related to different political systems;
- * compare and contrast different political systems on the basis of relevant theoretical perspectives and concepts.

Evaluation and approach:

- * examine and evaluate critically arguments for and against key theoretical perspectives within the field of comparative politics;
- * discuss critically potential consequences of as well as advantages and disadvantages of different political systems or elements of political systems in a manner that is well supported and justified.

In order to pass the course module International Politics, 7.5 credits, students are expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- 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.

Skill and ability:

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

Evaluation and approach:

- 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.

Education

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

Forms of examination

a. The types of examination vary depending on the course module.

Course module Political Theory is examined on the basis of a written group assignment and an individual assignment which has the form of a take home exam. When grading the course module, the individual assignment is weighted doubled compared to the group assignment.

Course module Swedish Politics is examined on the basis of a written examination.

Course module Comparative Politics is examined on the basis of a written examination.

Course module International Politics is examined on the basis of a written examination.

b. Grades will be set according to a sevenpoint scale related to the learning objectives of the course:

A = Excellent

B= Very good

C = Good

D = Satisfactory

E = Adequate

Fx = Inadequate

F = Totally Inadequate

c. Students will be informed of the written grading criteria when the course starts.

d. In order to pass the course, students must receive a grade of E or higher on all examinations, complete all mandatory assignments and meet the attendance requirement.

The letter grades A-E are converted into numbers 5-1 and aggregated to an average grade, which is calculated by weighting the number of higher education credits of each course module. The final course grade thus constitutes a weighted average of the course modules. Standard rules for rounding numbers apply.

e. At least two examination opportunities should be offered for each course.

Students who receive the grade Fx or F twice by the same examiner are entitled to have another examiner appointed for the next examination, unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Such requests should be made to the Director of Studies.

Students who receive the grade E or higher may not retake the examination to attain a higher grade.

f. The completion of a supplementary assignment in order to convert the grade Fx into a passing grade on course modules examined on the basis of a take-home exam may be permitted if the student is close to meeting the criteria for a passing grade. The assignment should be submitted within a week of the examiner notifying the student of the need to complete a supplementary assignment. Adequate corrections of flaws related to understanding – minor misunderstandings, minor inaccuracies or too limited arguments – will receive the grade E. Adequate corrections of simple mistakes related to formatting will be graded using the grades A-E. Supplementary assignments are never allowed for written examinations.

Interim

When the syllabus is discontinued, students have the right to be examined according to this syllabus once per semester during a transition period of three semesters.

Limitations

This course may not be included in a degree together with a course, taken in Sweden or elsewhere, of identical or partially similar content.

Misc

The course code for this course was previously SV100E.

Required reading

See <http://www.statsvet.su.se/english/> two months before course start, at the latest.