

Syllabus

for course at first level

Political Science in English II

Statsvetenskap på engelska II

30.0 Higher Education

Credits

30.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	SVE002
Valid from:	Autumn 2018
Date of approval:	2017-03-21
Changed:	2018-06-07
Department	Department of Political Science
Main field:	Political Science
Specialisation:	G1F - First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

The syllabus has been approved by the Department Board of the Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, 2017-03-21. Revised 2018-06-07.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Political Science I, 30 credits, (or the equivalent).

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
2021	Approaches to Politics	7.5
2023	Political Science Research: Methods and Process	7.5
2024	Political Science Research: Independent Project	7.5
2227	Gender Equality Policy in Sweden and Europe	7.5
2228	What are Human Rights? Perspectives and Conflicts	7.5
2234	Environmental Politics	7.5
2237	Transnational Actors in International Organizations	7.5
2239	European Politics	7.5
2240	Human and International Security	7.5
2244	War and democracy in global politics	7.5
2246	Feminism and Politics	7.5

Course content

The course provides a wider and deeper knowledge of certain parts of the subject field studied within Political Science I; political science perspectives and approaches, methods and techniques; and ability to critically examine political phenomena. It also provides scope for an independent research project.

The course comprises four course modules.

Course module Approaches to Politics, 7.5 credits:

The course module sheds light on the role of theory in social science studies, and to provide an overview of important theoretical traditions. Furthermore the course offers insights into how theories are used and displayed in empirical studies. The course's aim is to give insights about how theory affects choice of topic, research questions and study design as well as what kind of results that can be expected. The course module

will deepen the understanding of the relation between theoretical approach and the analysis of empirical material, as well as encourage critical reflection regarding the implications of theory choice on study design.

Course module elective special course, 7.5 credits:

For information about the special course, see www.statsvet.su.se, two months before course starts at the latest.

Course module Political Science Research: Methods and Process, 7.5 credits:

This course module offers an introduction to the philosophy of science, an orientation among the main perspectives in contemporary social research, and basic knowledge of the most common methods for collecting and analyzing quantitative as well as qualitative data in the study of politics. The course module is also an introduction to the research process and offers the student guidance in formulating research problems, designing a study, collecting data, and conducting analysis. The aim of the course is to develop the basic skills needed for understanding research in the social sciences, as well as to build the methodological foundation for the student's independent research project.

Course module Political Science Research: Independent Research Project, 7.5 credits:

This course module offers the student training in designing an independent research project, and in planning, conducting and presenting an elementary scientific study. The course provides instructions and practical exercises in research design, formulation of research problems, collection of data, construction and application of analytical tools, reference management, and writing a research paper. The independent project consists of a research paper containing an analysis of a freely chosen problem relevant to political science. It is recommended that the course is taken in connection to course module 3 as the courses overlap significantly.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

After completion of the course the student should be able to:

- * account for various theoretical perspectives on politics and their methodological implications;
- * account for various theoretical perspectives related to certain research areas;
- * account for fundamental political science perspectives, theoretical efforts and methods;
- * understand and exemplify how various theories/perspectives can elucidate a political phenomenon within a chosen special area;
- * understand and exemplify what characterises the research process.

Skills and Abilities

After completion of the course the student should be able to use and apply:

- * various theoretical perspectives on politics, as well as show an understanding for their respective starting points and premises;
- * various theories/perspectives in order to elucidate a political phenomenon within a chosen special area;
- * methods in a satisfying way in an independent research project;
- * the fundamentals of an academic style of writing.

Evaluation and Approach

After completion of the course the student should be able to:

- * value and contrast theories and methods in an independent and critical way in both oral and written form;
- * reflect upon his/hers chosen perspectives and their respective methodological implications;
- * scrutinize and evaluate political science studies.

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

- * Be able to describe the content of different theories in an adequate way both verbally and in writing.
- * Describe the theories presented during the course and account for their basic characteristics.
- * Describe the importance of theory for formulating research questions, and designing an empirical study, as well as to account for what kind of outcomes that can be expected.
- * Be able to perform analyses of empirical material by using concepts or other core elements from the theories presented during the course module.
- * Show an ability to understand and critically evaluate the theories presented during the course, and to reflect on their own choices of theories and its implications for a study in social science.

In order to pass the course module elective special course, 7.5 credits: see www.statsvet.su.se two months before course start, at the latest.

In order to pass Political Science Research: Methods and Process, 7.5 credits, students are expected to be able to:

- account for the different parts of the research process and the way in which different components of the research project relate to methodological considerations;
- describe the essential aspects of quantitative and qualitative research strategies in the context of political science, as well as account for and compare central perspectives and concepts in the methodology of political science;
- apply different methodological perspectives and concepts, and be able to apply different methods in elementary exercises;
- present and justify critical arguments in relation to different perspectives and concepts within political science methodology;
- present and justify independent ideas and arguments in relation to different methodological perspectives in political science.

In order to pass Political Science Research: Independent Research Project, 7.5 credits, students are expected to be able to:

- formulate a relevant research problem within the field of political science;
- plan, conduct, and account for an independent study within the limits of the course guidelines;
- identify, collect and analyze empirical material in a way consistent with sound social science methodology;
- independently argue for and problematize their own scientific work;
- formulate a report on their own research in a clear way and in accordance with established practice in the social science;
- critically examine and constructively comment on other students' scientific work.

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 Approaches to Politics is examined by a take-home examination.

Course module elective special course is examined by a take-home examination.

Course module Political Science Research: Methods and Process is examined by two group assignments and a written examination.

Course module Political Science Research: Independent Research Paper is written in pairs of two students and examined by a written essay, public presentation of an essay, discussion and examination of another student's essay.

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 SV200E.

Required reading

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