

Syllabus

for course at first level

Political Science in English III
Statsvetenskap på engelska III

**30.0 Higher Education
Credits**
30.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	SVE003
Valid from:	Autumn 2017
Date of approval:	2017-03-21
Department	Department of Political Science
Main field:	Political Science
Specialisation:	G2E - First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements, contains degree project for BA/BSc

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

Political Science I, 30 credits (or the equivalent), or Political Science in English I, 30 credits (or the equivalent); and Political Science II, 30 credits (or the equivalent), or Political Science in English II, 30 credits (or the equivalent).

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
3021	Methods in Political Science	7.5
3400	Independent Research Project	15
3378	A New World Order?	7.5
3379	Security in International Relations	7.5
3384	International Political Economy	7.5
3393	Global Environmental Politics	7.5
3395	Inequalities of Political Participation and Representation	7.5
3396	Social Movements and Democracy in the Third World	7.5

Course content

The course provides a deeper knowledge of some of the political science areas; orientation of different political science perspectives; knowledge of political science research problems and methods. In addition a choice is made between a number of different special areas aiming both at a specialisation and a relevant point of departure for the independent work. Within the frame of a political science investigation scientific methods and theories should be applied in order to elucidate empirical/theoretical problems within the subject area.

Course module Methods in Political Science, 7.5 credits:

The course module aims at providing a deeper knowledge of political science research methodology. The course is divided in three parts that focuses on methods of analysis: quantitative, textual analysis and methods used for studying policy and implementation. Interactive methods, research design and epistemological issues are also discussed. Furthermore, the course includes an introduction to the statistical software package SPSS,

tools for narrowing down a research field as well as methods for finding previous research and practice in critical scrutiny of political science research.

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 Independent Research Project. 15 credits:

The Independent Research Project within Political Science III consists of an investigation of a political science problem connected to the special course chosen by the student. The independent research project takes the form of a research paper which is planned to take approximately two months of full-time studies. Every workshop is managed by a teacher from one of the special courses. The subject for the research paper is chosen in consultation with the supervisor/workshop teacher of the special course.

Learning outcomes

After completion of the course the student should be able to

Account for:

- central theories and perspectives, both in oral and written form, within different special areas of which the course consists;
- central problems within political science research;
- interactive, quantitative and text analysis methods, as well as methods used for policy and implementation studies.

Understand and exemplify:

- how various theories/perspectives can elucidate political questions within different special areas;
- the significance of research design, i.e. the connection between a problem, the choice of methods and results;
- possibilities and limitations of interactive, quantitative and textual analysis methods, as well as methods used for policy and implementation studies;
- the different parts of the research process.

Apply and use:

- relevant theories in an independent way;
- relevant methods within the frame of the independent work;
- an academic style of writing.

Value, compare and contrast:

- theories and methods in an independent and critical way in both oral and written form.

In order to pass the course module Methods in Political Science, 7.5 credits, students are expected to be able to:

- * account for interactive methods, statistical and textual analysis methods, as well as methods used for policy and implementation studies;
- * explain and exemplify a research design and which epistemological problems that might occur in the use of various methods.

Skills and Abilities

After completing the course module the students are expected to be able to:

- * apply methods of interactive methods such as interviews and surveys, various methods of statistical analysis, textual analysis as well as methods for policy and implementation studies;
- * narrow down a research field and search for previous literature;
- * perform less advanced statistical analyses with SPSS software.

Evaluation and Approach

After completing the course module the students are expected to be able to:

- * critically discuss advantages and disadvantages of the methods presented during the course,
- * scrutinize and evaluate various political science studies in the matter of methods;
- * critically reflect upon advantages and disadvantages, as well as epistemological dilemmas, of their own choices of methods.

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 the course module Independent Research Paper, 15 credits, students are expected to be able to:

- formulate a political science research problem;
- plan, conduct and, in the form of a research paper, present a social science study, which includes argumentation, analysis and interpretation of results, within a set time frame;
- express himself/herself clearly in accordance with scientific practice;
- carry through a relevant application of a social science method, as well as discuss advantages and disadvantages of different approaches;
- collect empirical material in a broad sense and analyze the material from theoretical and normative perspectives;
- critically examine scientific work and discuss merits and deficiencies;
- demonstrate an ability to make judgments with respect to relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects;
- show independence and demonstrate a critical approach to the research project, including the ability to critically reflect on the research paper, its various parts and conclusions;
- take part in written and oral presentation and discussion of the independent research paper as well as an oral examination and discussion of other independent research papers.

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 Methods in Political Science is examined by a take-home examination and a written examination.

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

Course module Independent Research Paper is 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.

g. Students who start working on their independent research projects are entitled to at least 12 hours of supervision. These hours include collective and individual supervision together with the supervisors time for reading texts that are handed in by the student.

h. The independent research project will be graded on the basis of the following assessment criteria: ability to formulate a political science research problem; ability to plan and conduct a social science study according to scientific practice; ability to argumentation, analysis and interpretation of results; completion within a set time frame; ability to application of a social science method; ability to collect empirical material and analyze; ability to independence and a critical approach; quality regarding written and oral presentation; and quality regarding oral examination and discussion of other independent research projects.

i. A change of supervisors may be granted under special circumstances. Requests for such a change (including a justification) should always be made to the Director of Studies.

j. Students who do not finish their degree projects in time are not entitled to more supervision. However, the students are always entitled to have their degree projects graded at a future examination date.

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 SV300E.

Required reading

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