

# Syllabus

for course at first level

**Political Science in English III**  
**Statsvetenskap på engelska III**

**30.0 Higher Education**  
**Credits**  
**30.0 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	SVE003
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2019
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2017-03-21
<b>Changed:</b>	2019-03-12
<b>Department</b>	Department of Political Science
<b>Main field:</b>	Political Science
<b>Specialisation:</b>	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. Revised 2019-03-12.

## 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
3400	Independent Research Project	15
3000	Methods in Political Science	15

## 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. 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, 15 credits:

The course module aims at providing knowledge of political science research methodology. The course provides knowledge of both qualitative and quantitative methods, methods for gathering empirical material, research design and theory of science. Roughly half of the course is devoted to quantitative methods and half to qualitative methods. Methods studied include process-tracing, case studies, comparative studies, and mixed methods. The course also provides tools for evaluating political science research and applications of various methods. The course also covers exercises with statistical software.

Course module Independent Research Project. 15 credits:

The Independent Research Project within Political Science III consists of an investigation of a political science problem. The independent research project takes the form of a research paper, which is planned to

take approximately two months of full-time studies. The subject for the research paper is chosen in consultation with the supervisor.

### **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 the different areas of political science that form the basis for the course;
- central problems within political science research as well as current research questions;
- interactive, quantitative and text analysis methods.

Understand and exemplify:

- 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;
- the different parts of the research process.

Apply and use:

- relevant theories and 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, 15 credits, students are expected to be able to:

- \* account for interactive methods like interviews and surveys, different statistical methods and different methods of statistical analysis.
- \* 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, and textual analysis;
- \* narrow down a research field and search for previous literature;
- \* perform less advanced statistical analyses with statistical software.

### **Evaluation and Approach**

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

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

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.

The independent research project must also adhere to the general criteria and regulations.

### **Education**

The course is based on lectures and seminars. The seminars are compulsory. Absence requires submission of compensatory assignments. More information about these assignments are provided by the teacher at the start of the course.

### **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 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 seven point 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 the equivalent of 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 analysis; 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 student who wants to change supervisor must contact 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.