

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Unipolarity Without Hegemony: Pax Americana in the 21st Century
Unipolaritet utan hegemoni: 2000-talets Pax Americana

**7.5 Higher Education
Credits**
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	SV7078
Valid from:	Autumn 2019
Date of approval:	2017-08-17
Changed:	2019-06-13
Department	Department of Political Science
Main field:	Political Science
Specialisation:	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

The syllabus has been approved by the Head of the Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, 2017-08-17. Date of last revision, 2019-06-13.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

A degree of at least 180 credits, with 90 credits in Political Science, or the equivalent.

English 6.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
7001	Unipolarity Without Hegemony	7.5

Course content

The aim of the course is to provide master students with enhanced knowledge in, and understanding of, the concepts of unipolarity and hegemony within the contemporary study of political science and international politics, as well as with an ability to employ them with respect to theoretical and empirical claims about the United States' current position of power in the world. How do these two concepts relate to each other and how can they help characterize the US's role in international politics? What is the special position of the United States in the world and which are the properties of the present world order, Pax Americana? How do international security institutions operate in the light of that order? Which signs of erosion of Pax Americana are visible in various parts of the world and what are the risks accompanying that development? The course highlights how the exertion of American power is being strengthened and reproduced through transnational and international cooperation, but also how US influence is subverted, indirectly and directly, by an assortment of actors. Overall the course offers the participants good opportunities to reflect over their own assumptions about today's world order and the special position of the United States within it, based on a set of relevant analytical and theoretical concepts. In a concluding essay the participants will furthermore take a stand on some of the most important issues raised by the course literature, completing a writing assignment in which they develop and substantiate arguments for or against continued unipolarity, with or without the United States at its center, enduring for the rest of the 21st century.

Learning outcomes

In order to pass the course, students should be able to:

1. Knowledge and understanding

- be able to account for the concepts of unipolarity and hegemony and their application within the study of international politics, orally as well as in writing.
- be able to name, describe and discuss historical examples of unipolarity and hegemony within the study of international politics, as well as relate them to today's Pax Americana,

2. Skills and abilities

- be able to analyze and interpret phenomena and events in contemporary international politics in the light of the course literature devoted to unipolarity and hegemony.
- be able to compare and contrast different theories pertaining to these phenomena as well as to identify their underlying theoretical premises.

3. Evaluation and reasoning

- be able to present and justify critical argument vis-à-vis the course literature.
- be able to develop independent viewpoints and arguments based on theoretical reasoning and empirical illustrations, orally as well as in writing.

Education

The course encompasses interactive seminars with intermittent, short lectures by the teacher. 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.

The language of instruction is English.

Forms of examination

a) The course is examined through continuous oral examinations and one written part, by discussions based on study questions and a written essay and examination of another student's essay.

Information about how the course grade is aggregated, based on the different examination parts, are to be found in the grading criteria.

The course is examined in English.

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 fulfil the attendance requirement.

e) At least two examination opportunities should be offered for each time the course is given. During a semester when the course is not given, at least one examination opportunity should be offered.

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 Board of the Department.

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 or when the content has been significantly modified, students have the right to be examined according to this syllabus once each 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.

Required reading

The course literature list will be published on the website of the Department at least two months before the course starts.

<http://www.statsvet.su.se/english/education/courses-and-programmes/second-level/advanced-level-courses>