

# Syllabus

for course at first level

**Political science with focus on international security and organization**      **30.0 Higher Education**  
**Statsvetenskap med inriktning internationell säkerhet och organisation**      **Credits**  
**30.0 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	SVE004
<b>Valid from:</b>	Spring 2020
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2019-09-10
<b>Department</b>	Department of Political Science
<b>Main field:</b>	Political Science
<b>Specialisation:</b>	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, 2019-09-10.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

### Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
1001	Political Theory	7.5
1003	Comparative Politics	7.5
1002	International Organizations	7.5
1004	International Security	7.5

### Course content

Political Science with focus on International Security and Organization provides a broad introduction to the subject. The course stimulates individual analysis and a problematizing approach to political phenomena. The course provides knowledge of central political problems and concepts, as well as ideas, institutions, and processes in the course modules Political Theory, International Organizations, Comparative Politics and International Security. This knowledge is framed scientifically and discussed from different theoretical perspectives. The course provides an overview of current scientific issues within the fields of the course modules and introduces tools for students to use for independent interpretation, inquiry, and evaluation of 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 International Organizations, 7,5 credits:

This course gives an introduction of the study of international organizations. The focus is on the organizational form (formal, informal, hybrid), on the types of actors (states, supranational bureaucracies, non-governmental actors) and on current challenges faced by international organizations (effectiveness, legitimacy and democracy).

#### 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 Security, 7,5 credits:

This course aims to provide students with different conceptual and theoretical tools in order to study and analyze contemporary security problems and security strategies in international politics. The topics include approaches to security, concepts and notions of security, institutions of security and modern security issues globally and regionally. The course also focuses on moral and practical arguments on the nature of modern armed conflicts and violence. In addition the course will focus on the impact of ideology on foreign and security policy and how the production of threats, fears and dangers plays a vital role in the development of new security strategies.

#### **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 theoretical perspectives on the study of international organizations, their structure and purpose and how they should be understood in a historical context
- different theoretical perspectives of comparative politics and fundamental aspects of different political systems
- basic problems and issues in the study of international security

Understand and exemplify:

- central political theories and ideologies, and fundamental political-theoretical problems
- central aspects of international organizations
- different theoretical perspectives of comparative politics and aspects of different political systems
- central theoretical perspectives and concepts in the study of international security

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 in the study of international organizations
- 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, international organizations, the analysis of different political systems and international security

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 International Organizations, 7.5 credits, students are expected to be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding:

- provide accounts of key theoretical perspectives and basic concepts within the study of international organizations, with a particular focus on forms, actors and current challenges.
- understand and exemplify theoretical approaches to the study of international organizations.

Skill and Ability:

- apply key theoretical perspectives and basic concepts within the study of international organizations to phenomena and events related to international politics
- identify and collect relevant information about international organizations, their forms and actors, and present the results in a transparent manner

Evaluation and approach:

- examine and evaluate critically arguments for and against key theoretical perspectives within the study of international organizations.
- discuss the relevance and limitations of different theories for understanding international organizations.

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 Security, 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 international politics, with a particular focus on security threats and how these are countered.
- Understand and exemplify how existing theories are used in relation to relevant historical and current international and transnational security challenges, collaborative efforts, and peacemaking.

Skill and Ability:

- apply key theoretical perspectives and basic concepts within the field of international politics to phenomena and events related to different contemporary security threats;
- identify and collect relevant information about contemporary security challenges and present this in a clear and transparent manner

Evaluation and approach:

- examine and evaluate critically arguments for and against key theoretical perspectives within the field of international security politics;
- critically discuss the relevance and limitations of different theories for understanding contemporary international security challenges.

## **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 International Organizations is examined on the basis of an individual assignment which has the form of a written examination.

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

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

All course modules are 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 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 is only given within in Bachelor's Programme in International Business and Politics.

**Required reading**

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