

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Analytical Perspectives and the Study of Power in the Social Sciences
Samhällsvetenskapliga analysinriktningar och studier av makt

**15.0 Higher Education
Credits**
15.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	SV7031
Valid from:	Autumn 2013
Date of approval:	2007-03-20
Changed:	2013-04-25
Department	Department of Political Science
Main field:	Political Science
Specialisation:	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

This syllabus has been approved by the Board of the Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, 2007-03-20

Date of latest revision, 2013-04-25

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

A Bachelor of Arts Degree (180 ECTS credit points or the equivalent), with a major in political science.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
7031	Analytical Perspectives and the Study of Power	15

Course content

The aim of this course is to give students a deeper knowledge on a number of central analytical approaches to the study of politics, as well as a deeper knowledge on how power can be understood - both explicit and implicit - and studied with these analytical approaches as a basis. The students shall reach a deepened understanding of how various empirical studies are more or less characterized, or affected, by the choice of analytical approach. The central analytical approaches are: actor-oriented perspective, structuralism, post structuralism and normative theory.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course the student is expected to be able to:

- * account for central analytical approaches to the study of politics and theories of power, orally or written;
- * explain and exemplify central analytical approaches to the study of politics and theories of power;
- * interpret and apply basic analytical approaches to the study of politics and theories of power on phenomenon and events in contemporary politics;
- * compare and contrast various central analytical approaches to the study of politics and theories of power and identify their underlying theoretical premises;
- * present and give cause for critical arguments in relation to central analytical approaches to the study of politics and theories of power;
- * develop independent points of views and arguments on the basis of central analytical approaches to the study of politics and theories of power.

Education

The course includes both lectures and seminars of which some are compulsory. Information on how to supplement absence will be provided at the beginning of the course.

Forms of examination

Some of the teaching sessions are compulsory. Examinations will be continuingly through out the course and/or at the end of the course. Exams may be written or oral.

A seven steps grading scale is used for grading. A, B, C, D and E are degrees of a passed grade. F and Fx are degrees of a failed grade. It is possible for a student to supplement an examination if the obtained grade is Fx and information about this possibility is included in the provided course information. Upon being informed of the need for supplement by the examiner, the supplementary task must be submitted within five working days. If the examination supplement is accepted and has the character of supplementing a lack of understanding, minor misunderstanding, minor errors or too limited discussions for some part, the grade E will be applied. If the supplementary task is accepted and has the character of simple formality corrections, the grades A-E will be applied.

At the beginning of the course, grading criteria will be provided. Students who have failed the course twice have the right to request another examiner. This request should be addressed to the department unit that has appointed the examiner. A student that has passed an exam may not take part in a re-examination in order to obtain a higher grade

Interim

When this course is no longer offered or when its content has been significantly modified, the student has the right to be examined according to this syllabus once each semester during a period of three semesters

Misc

Language of instruction: Swedish, in some cases English

Required reading

- Bourdieu, Pierre. 2001. *Masculine Domination*. Stanford, Ca: Stanford University Press, Chapter 1, pp. 1-53. (54 p.) Available through SUB's e-resources.
- Downs, Anthony. 1957. "An Economic Theory of Political Action in a Democracy," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 65, No. 2: 135-150. (16 p.) Available through SUB's e-resources
- Hansen, Peo (1995) "Questions from Somewhere-Who's Who in Attitude Research About 'Immigrants'?" in *Innovation: The European Journal of Social Sciences* Vol. 8 (2): 191-199. (15 p.) Available through SUB's e-resources
- Lukes, Steven. 2005. *Power: A Radical View*. London: MacMillan. (192 p.) Book available at the bookstore.
- Nussbaum, Martha. 2003. "Human Capabilities, Female Human Beings," in Johnathan Glover and Martha Nussbaum., eds. *Women, Culture, and Development: A Study of Human Capabilities*. Oxford: Oxford Scholarship Online. (55 p.)
- Ostrom, Elinor. 1998. "A Behavioral Approach to the Rational Choice Theory of Collective Action," *The American Political Science Review* 92 (1): 1-22. (22 p.) Available through SUB's e-resources.
- Rose, Nikolas & Miller, Peter. 1992. "Political Power Beyond the State-Problems of Government," *British Journal of Sociology* 43 (2). 173-205. (32 p.) Available through SUB's e-resources.
- Rose, Nikolas & Novas, Carlos. 2004. "Biological Citizenship" in Ong, Aihwa and Collier, Stephen (eds). *Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems*. Blackwell Publishing, Oxford, pp. 439-463. A version of this chapter is available on Mondo. (34 sid.)
- Sewell Jr., William (1992) "A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency and Transformation," *The American Journal of Sociology* 98 (1): (29 p.) Available through SUB's e-resources.
- Smith, Anna Marie (1998) *Laclau and Mouffe: The Radical Democratic Imaginary*. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 84-116, 151-76 (57 p.). Available through SUB's e resources.
- Walzer, Michael. 1987. "Interpretation and Social Criticism." (60 p.) Available at <http://www.tannerlectures.utah.edu/lectures/walzer88.pdf>
- Weldon, S. Laurel (2006) "The Structure of Intersectionality: A Comparative Politics of Gender", *Politics and Gender* 2(2). (14 p.) Available through SUB's e-resources.
- Young, Iris Marion. 2006. "Responsibility and Global Justice: A Social Connection Model," *Social Philosophy and Policy* 23 (1): 102-130. (28 p.) Available through SUB's e-resources.

Compendium:

- Butler, Judith (1992) "Contingent Foundations: Feminism and the Question of Postmodernism," in Butler, Judith and Scott, Joan W. (eds.), *Feminists Theorize the Political*. Routledge: New York, (19 p.)
- Durkheim, Émile. 2006. *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. London: Penguin. Chapter 1, pp. 329-361 in part 3

(33 p.)

-Edward Said, 1979. *Orientalism*, New York: Vintage Books, pp 1-29 (28 p.)

-Elster, Jon. 1985. *Sour Grapes. Studies in the Subversion of Rationality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Part I "Rationality" (42 p.)

-Essed, Philomena. 2002. "Everyday Racism," in Goldberg, Theo & Solomos, John (eds.) *A Companion to Racial and Ethnic Studies*. Oxford, UK: Blackwell. (15 p.)

-Foucault, Michel, 1998. *History of Sexuality. The Will to Knowledge*, London: Penguin Books, pp. 15-36, 92-103 (32 p.)

-Friedman, Debra & Diem, Carol. 1993. "Feminism and the Pro- (Rational-) Choice Movement. Rational Choice Theory, Feminist Critiques and Gender Inequality in England", Paula. (ed.), *Theory on Gender/Feminism on Theory*. New York: A. de Gruyter, (24 p.)

-Gaventa, John. 1982. *Power and Powerlessness. Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley*. Champaign, Illinois: Oxford University Press - Books (US & UK). Pp. iii-44, 80-83, 161-164, 199-201, 252-261 (77 p.)

-Hartmann, Heidi. 1995. "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism: Towards a More Progressive Union", in Sterba, James (ed.) *Social and Political Philosophy: Classical Western Texts in Feminist and Multicultural Perspectives*. Belmont: Wadsworth, (11 p.)

-Habermas, Jürgen. 1990. "Discourse Ethics: Notes on a Program of Philosophical Justification," in *Moral Consciousness and Communicative Action*, Cambridge: Polity Press pp. 43-98 and 109-115 (63 p.)

-Laclau, Ernesto, 1993. "Discourse," in Goodin, Robert and Petit, Philip (eds.): *A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy*. Oxford: Blackwell, (7 p.)

-Olson, Mancur. 1969. *The Logic of Collective Action. Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2 pp. 1- 65. (66 p.)

-Rawls, John. 1973. *A Theory of Justice*, Harvard University Press pp. 17-53 (36 p.)

-Scanlon, Thomas, 1998. *What We Owe to Each Other*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University press pp. 189-247 (66 p.)

-Torfing, Jacob, 2004. "Discourse Theory: Achievements, Arguments and Challenges," in *Discourse Theory in European Politics*, (32 p.)

-Young, Iris Marion, "Socialist Feminism and the Limits of Dual Systems Theory" in Iris Marion Young 1990 *Throwing Like a Girl and Other Essays*. Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press. Pages 21-35. (14 p.)