

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Politics and normative theory

Politik och normativ teori

7.5 Higher Education Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code: SV7051
Valid from: Spring 2012
Date of approval: 2008-10-14
Changed: 2011-12-06
Department: Department of Political Science
Subject: Political Science

Decision

The syllabus has been decided by the Board of the Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, 2008-10-14

Date of latest revision, 2011-12-06

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements course

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
7051	Politics and normative theory	7.5

Course content

The course explores the relationship between political practice and normative political theory. The relationship between theory and practice is being studied from two different approaches: The first investigates the political and institutional implications of different political theories. The second analyses normative ideas and principles that underpin and justify central Swedish policy documents. The course literature consists of normative theoretical texts as well as topical texts singled out from Swedish politics. The course aims to apply these normative theories on the political texts and to utilize political theory as a tool in an analysis of the normative foundation of politics.

Learning outcomes

Upon examination the student is expected to be able to:

- account for and explain contemporary normative theories
- understand central dividing lines in contemporary political theory and to apply these theories on topical political texts and problems
- compare and contrast different normative theoretical approaches and to tease out their institutional and political implications
- present a critical argumentation in relation contemporary political theory and to develop an independent analysis

Education

The teaching consists of seminars

Forms of examination

For the grading, the course will employ a scale of seven steps, where A, B, C, D and E signify multiple degrees of pass, and F and Fx signify two degrees of fail. The grading is based on criteria of assessment criteria that will be distributed at the beginning of the course. The examination has the form of writing a course essay comprising 12-15 pages on the basis of at least two of the books on the course.

Interim

When the 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: English

Required reading

a) Books

Daniels, Norman (2008) *Just Health: Meeting Health Needs Fairly* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Van Parijs, Philippe (1995) *Real Freedom for All. What (if anything) can justify capitalism?* Oxford: Oxford University Press (selected pages). The book is available as electronic resource through www.sub.su.se

b) Articles (all are available as electronic resources)

Anderson, Elizabeth (1999) "What Is the Point of Equality?" *Ethics*, Vol. 109 (2), 287-337.

Dworkin, Ronald (1981) "Equality of What? Part 2: Equality of Resources", *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 10, 283-345.

Dworkin, Ronald (2000), "Justice and the High Costs of Health", in *Sovereign Virtue: The Theory and Practice of Equality*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

McKinnon, Catriona (2003), "Basic Income, Self-Respect and Reciprocity" *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, Vol 20 (2), 143-158.

Sen, Amartya (1992) "Functionings and Capabilities" + "The Demands of Equality" in *Inequality Reexamined*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Sen, Amartya (2002), "Why health equity?", in *Health Economics*, Vol. 11 2002: 659-666

White, Stuart (2000), "Review Article: Social Rights and the Social Contract - Political Theory and the New Welfare Politics", *British Journal of Political Science* 30, 507-532.

White, Stuart (2004), "What's Wrong with Workfare?", *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, Vol 21 (3), 271-284.