Description
The course module provides knowledge of various theoretical approaches on politics, their methodological significance and how the different approaches are expressed when used in empirical studies. A number of various approaches will be discussed during the course. Actor oriented, structural and institutional approaches will be presented and discussed from three themes. The first theme concerns issues of actor and structure, the second theme is about discourse and materiality, and the third theme concerns issues of political processes, such as institutions and governance, and their form and contents. The purpose of the course is to give knowledge of how the choice of theoretical approaches affects choices of subject, framing of research questions, methods and results. Furthermore, the course provides tools for identifying various approaches in the reading of scientific texts. The aim of the course is also to contribute to critical reflection of one's own choices of approach and their methodological implications.

Course readings

Books


Articles and chapters

Buzan, Barry, 2006. “Will the ‘global war on terrorism’ be the new Cold War?” In: International Affairs 82(6), 1101-1118. (e-resource)


Hollis, Martin, 1994. “Introduction: the problems of structure and action”. In: The philosophy of social science: an introduction. Cambridge university press. (pp. 5-20 provided by the teacher)


Rose, Nikolas, Pat O’Malley & Mariana Valverde, 2006. ”Governmentality” In: *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, 2, 83-104. (e-resource)

Sartori, Giovanni, 1973. ”What is ’politics’?” In: *Political Theory* 1(1), 5-26. (e-resource)


Minor changes may occur, a few articles may be added.