

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Analytical Perspectives and the Study of Power in the Social Sciences, in 15.0 Higher Education

English

Credits

Samhällsvetenskapliga analysinriktningar och studier av makt, på engelska

15.0 ECTS credits

Course code: SV7054
Valid from: Autumn 2019
Date of approval: 2009-08-19
Changed: 2019-05-14
Department: Department of Political Science

Main field: Political Science
Specialisation: AXX - Second cycle, in-depth level of the course cannot be classified

Decision

This syllabus has been approved by the Head of the Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, 2009-08-19. Date of latest revision, 2019-06-13.

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
7001	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 politics 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 theoretical and empirical studies are more or less characterized, or affected, by the choice of analytical approach. The central analytical approaches are: rational choice, institutionalism, feminism, constructivism and normative theory.

Learning outcomes

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

1. Knowledge and Understanding

- Explain, illustrate and compare core components and assumptions characteristic of the central analytical approaches.
- Relate the analytical approaches to theories of political power broadly-conceived as well as the interplay of power and norms in politics.

2. Skills and Abilities

- Review and examine how the analytical approaches can be used to study political power broadly-conceived.
- Identify and contrast the underlying theoretical assumptions of the analytical approaches to politics.

3. Evaluation and Approach

- Critically assess the analytic approaches and the study of political power broadly-conceived with regard to their theoretical premises and underlying norms and their application in empirical research.
- Develop and motivate scientifically one's own conclusions and arguments based on the analytical approaches.

Education

The course is based on seminars and lectures and seminars. 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 by a take-home examination.

b. Grades will be set according to a seven point scale related to the learning objectives of the course:

A = Excellent

B= Very good

C = Good

D = Satisfactory

E = Adequate

Fx = Inadequate, some more work is required

F = Totally inadequate, a lot more work is required

c. Students will be informed of the written grading criteria as of course start.

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.

e. At least two examination opportunities will 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 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

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 literature list will be posted on <http://www.statsvet.su.se/english/education/courses-and-programmes/second-level> .

The literature list will be available at least two months before the course starts.