



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

STVC79, Political Science: Political Theory, 7.5 credits

Statsvetenskap: Politisk teori, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2020-03-26 and was last revised on 2020-06-10. The revised syllabus applies from 2020-08-31, autumn semester 2020.

General Information

The course is an elective alternative course during the third semester studies in political science.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Political Science

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

After completing the course, the student should show

Knowledge and understanding

- a deeper understanding of the concept of ideology and of different approaches to the study of ideologies,
- in-depth knowledge of theories and practices linked to central political ideologies in Europe,

Competence and skills

- ability to compare key elements of different ideologies with each other,
- ability to identify ideological arguments in political texts,

- ability to formulate relevant research problems in the course area and be able to theorize, generalize and discuss these problems,
- ability to distinguish between primary and secondary material in the study of political ideologies,
- ability to make written and oral presentations in accordance with good academic standards,

Judgement and approach

- ability to assess political ideologies on the basis of relevant scientific and ethical aspects,
- ability to contribute to the common learning environment and to group dynamic aspects of learning,
- ability to take responsibility for their own learning process by actively participating in group assignments, seminars and individual assignments.

Course content

Ideology is a central element of politics and a meeting point between political theory and political practice. The course deals with the content of key political ideologies that have had an impact on Western politics in recent centuries. It includes modern political ideologies (liberalism, conservatism, socialism, anarchism, nationalism and fascism) as well as political ideologies with a more contemporary origin (populism, Islamism, feminism, ecology and multiculturalism). The course analyzes the history of ideologies and the main normative building blocks. It also addresses variations within each ideology, as well as how they overlap or differ. Other central elements in the course are the concept of ideology itself, different approaches to studying ideologies, and the role that ideologies have in contemporary politics.

Course design

Teaching takes the form of lectures and seminars. Participation in seminars is compulsory. Compensation assignments or alternative time is offered to students who, without their own fault, such as an accident, sudden illness or similar events, were unable to complete the compulsory component. This also applies to students who have missed teaching due to a trust assignment as a student representative.

Assessment

The course is examined through active participation in seminars and a final written exam. The course offers regular exams, re-examinations in close proximity to the regular exams, as well as a third exam opportunity. Within one year of the course having undergone a major change or discontinued, at least two additional examinations are offered on the same course content. Thereafter, the student is offered additional examinations but in accordance with the current syllabus.

If a student with a permanent disability requires an alternative but equivalent form of examination, the examiner may, after consultation with the University's pedagogical

support department, decide on an alternative examination form for the student concerned.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The grading scale includes the grades Fail, E, D, C, B, A. Highest grades are denoted with A and lowest grades for approved results with E. Grades for unapproved results are denoted Fail. The student's results are assessed on the basis of the course's learning objectives. For the grade E the student must show a sufficient result. For the grade D, the student must show a satisfactory result. For the grade C, the student should show a good result. For the grade B, the student should show a very good result. For the grade A the student must show an excellent result. For the grade Fail, the student has shown an insufficient result.

The final written exam forms the basis for 75 per cent of the grade on the course and seminar activity forms the basis for 25 per cent of the grade.

Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires approved studies in political science comprising 1-60 higher education credits.