

## Department of Political Science

# Syllabus

for course at first level

**Statsvetenskap II**

**Political Science II**

**30.0 Higher Education Credits**

**30.0 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	SVS002
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2024
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2024-02-07
<b>Changed:</b>	2024-02-08
<b>Department:</b>	Department of Political Science
<b>Subject group:</b>	Political Science
<b>Specialisation:</b>	G1F - First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
<b>Main field:</b>	Political Science

## Decision

Finalized by: Prefektbeslut vid Statsvetenskapliga institutionen, 2024-02-07

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Political Science I, 30 credits, (or the equivalent).

## Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
2001	Approaches to Politics	7.5
2002	The Study of Democracy	7.5
2003	Structure and Processes of Politics	7.5
2004	The Politics of the Environment and Sustainability	7.5
2005	International Relations	7.5
2006	Politics and Development in the Global South	7.5
2007	Contemporary Political Theory	7.5
2008	European Politics	7.5
2009	Voters, Representatives, and Political Decision Making in Comparative Perspective	7.5

## Course content

The course provides a wider and deeper knowledge of certain parts of the subject field studied within Political Science I; political science perspectives and approaches, and ability to critically examine political phenomena.

The course comprises four course modules.

Course module Approaches to Politics, 7.5 credits:

The course module sheds light on the role of theory in social science studies, and to provide an overview of

important theoretical traditions. Furthermore the course offers insights into how theories are used and displayed in empirical studies. The course's aim is to give insights about how theory affects choice of topic, research questions and study design as well as what kind of results that can be expected. The course module will deepen the understanding of the relation between theoretical approach and the analysis of empirical material, as well as encourage critical reflection regarding the implications of theory choice on study design.

Course module The Study of Democracy, 7,5 credits:

The course module aims at providing deeper knowledge and understanding of democracy, both theoretically and empirically. The aim of the course is to provide insight on how democracy can be defined, why democracy can be seen as valuable, what different models of democracy there are, and how democracy can be understood in different political contexts, such as international cooperation. The course module also provides insights on how democracy spreads, is maintained, or deteriorates in a global perspective. Special attention is paid to applying democratic theory in the study of political science.

Course module elective special course I, 7.5 credits:

For information about the special course, see [www.statsvet.su.se](http://www.statsvet.su.se), two months before course starts at the latest.

Course module elective special course II, 7.5 credits:

For information about the special course, see [www.statsvet.su.se](http://www.statsvet.su.se), two months before course starts at the latest.

## **Learning outcomes**

After completion of the course the student should be able to use and apply:

### Knowledge and Understanding

- account for different theoretical approaches to politics and democracy, and their methodological implications
- account for fundamental theoretical perspectives on political issues and problems
- account for basic political science approaches and theories
- account for current research issues in political science
- understand and exemplify different theories and perspectives
- understand and exemplify research problems

### Skills and Abilities

- various theoretical perspectives on politics, as well as show an understanding for their respective starting points and premises;
- various theories/perspectives on politics and democracy in order to elucidate political phenomenon
- the fundamentals of an academic style of writing.

#### Evaluation and Approach

- value and contrast theories and methods in an independent and critical way in both oral and written form;
- reflect upon his/hers chosen perspectives and their respective methodological implications;
- scrutinize and evaluate political science studies.

In order to pass the course module Approaches to Politics, 7.5 credits, students are expected to be able to:

- Be able to describe the content of different theories in an adequate way both verbally and in writing.
- Describe the theories presented during the course and account for their basic characteristics.
- Describe the importance of theory for formulating research questions, and designing an empirical study, as well as to account for what kind of outcomes that can be expected.
- Be able to perform analyzes of empirical material by using concepts or other core elements from the theories presented during the course module.
- Show an ability to understand and critically evaluate the theories presented during the course, and to reflect on their own choices of theories and its implications for a study in social science.

In order to pass the course module The Study of Democracy, 7,5 credits, students are expected to be able to:

- Account for central theories and concepts of democracy
- Account for normative theories of democracy
- Account for important theories about democratization
- Interpret and apply democratic theory, normative models, theories of democratization, and concepts of democracy on political phenomena.
- Critically and independently argue in relation to democratic theories, normative models, theories of

democratization, and concepts of democracy.

In order to pass the course module elective special course I, 7.5 credits: see [www.statsvet.su.se](http://www.statsvet.su.se) two months before course start, at the latest.

In order to pass the course module elective special course II, 7.5 credits: see [www.statsvet.su.se](http://www.statsvet.su.se) two months before course start, at the latest.

## **Education**

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars. Attendance at seminars is compulsory. Absence during maximum one seminar per course module can be compensated by submission of a written assignment. Absence from more than one seminar will require that a student have to re-take the course.

For a more detailed information regarding education, see the course description. The course description is available one month before course start, at the latest.

## **Forms of examination**

a. The form of examination differs depending on course module.

Course module Approaches to Politics is examined by a take home examination.

Course module The Study of Democracy is examined by a take home examination.

The form of examination for Course module elective special course I depends on which one the student chooses to take. Information regarding examination can be found in the course description for each special course.

The form of examination for Course module elective special course II depends on which one the student chooses to take. Information regarding examination can be found in the course description for each special course.

For students who have a certificate from Stockholm University recommending special pedagogical support, the examiner may decide to adapt the teaching, provide a customized exam, or allow the student to take the exam in an alternative way.

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

## Failing grades

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 three examination opportunities will be offered within one year. If the course is not given during one year, at least one examination opportunity will be offered.

Students who receive the grade 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. Supplementary assignments for the grade Fx is never allowed for written examinations.

The literature list will be posted on [www.statsvet.su.se](http://www.statsvet.su.se) at least two months before the course starts.

## 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.

## Misc

The course previously had the course code SV200S.