



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Political Science

1SK131 Globala politiska frågor, 30 högskolepoäng
Contemporary global political issues, 30 credits

Main field of study

Political Science

Subject Group

Political Science

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

GIN

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Social Sciences 2015-05-27
The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2016

Prerequisites

General entry requirements.

Objectives

On successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- Identify current problems within the fields of human rights, corruption and ethics in public administration
- Demonstrate the importance of human rights, corruption and ethics in public administration
- Critically discuss research results concerning these issues
- Independently develop problems and analyse these by employing relevant concepts and theories

Content

Central course themes are human rights, corruption, abuse of power and ethics in public administration. These issues are of great importance for public administration and politics in European as well as global context.

The course consists of three modules.

Module 1 European Human Rights Law 15 credits

Objectives

The general objective of this module is to enable students to develop the ability to understand the norms of European Human Rights Law and be able to apply these norms professionally in private and public life.

On successful completion of the module, the student should be able to:

- Describe the historical and philosophical development of human rights norms in Europe.
- Describe the importance of human rights. Having the ability to comprehend the importance of human rights.
- Outline theories of European human rights conventions
- Describe how the European Court of Human Rights functions and outline how human rights are implemented.
- Critically and scientifically analyse discriminatory and abusive social, political, religious and cultural values and attitudes and to reformulate, interpret and translate them in accordance with the spirit and meanings of human rights legal norms.

Content

The main theme of this module concerns learning basic legal norms of European Human Rights Law (including European Union and other European IGOs and NGOs). The following topics will be explored:

- Fundamental aspects of International Law in relation to human rights norms.
- Historical and philosophical aspects and development of human rights in Europe.
- Analyse and criticize issues in human right from a perspective of gender equality.
- The European Court of Human Rights: jurisdiction, proceeding of the Court and the effects of a judgement of the Court.
- Established mechanisms and procedures to protect social, economic and cultural rights in Europe.
- Concepts of human dignity and non-discrimination, right to life, prohibition of slavery and forced labour, protection of property, prohibition of torture and degrading treatment, right to liberty and security, right to a fair trial, right to respect for private and family life, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and right to a effective remedy.
- Welfare rights, consumer rights, women rights, children rights, discrimination against women and racial discrimination.
- Intellectual property rights.
- Right to peace, environmental rights, right to sustainable development and social justice - The difference between human right from a traditional perspective and from a perspective of equality between the sexes.

The main theme and topics mentioned above shall be taught in three stages:

1. International law, development and philosophical aspects of human rights in Europe: In this first stage students shall learn the basic principles of international law related to human rights. Different philosophical aspects and ideologies related to human rights and the concepts of universality and cultural relativism.

2. European regional organisations and legal norms of human rights in Europe: Institutional structure of the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Union, OSCE and NGOs in Europe.

- Civil and political rights: The European Convention for the protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and other conventions.
- Economical, social and cultural rights: The European Social Charter and other conventions in this field.
- Minority rights: The Framework convention for the Protection of National Minorities.
- Case studies: The European Court of Human Rights has created massive

jurisprudence through judgements. Students shall learn to analyse critically the cases concerning the mentioned topics.

3. Implementation of human rights at National level: How has Sweden implemented European norms of human rights in their laws and policy documents? Students (Swedish and from other countries) shall learn, independently and together, to understand the difference and similarities between human rights implementation procedures and strategies in different countries.

Module 2 Political Corruption 7.5 credits

Objectives

On successful completion of the module, the student should be able to:

- Outline and define key concepts and identify important methodological issues in the study of corruption
- Describe potential causes of corruption and its impact on contemporary democracies
- Critically discuss ethics in public administration
- Identify a problem concerning corruption in public administration and independently analyse this.

Content

During the last 20 years issues of corruption and ethics in public administration have received increased attention by governments, media, and non-governmental organisations. The access to quantitative measurements of corruption has also encouraged more research. This module will focus on empirical and theoretical studies of corruption and ethics and explore issues such as: How can corruption be effectively assessed and measured? What is the impact of corruption on public administration, political legitimacy and stability? How can ethical approaches in public administration be maintained. How effective are dominant approaches to promote ethical conduct and avoid corruption and abuse of power?

Module 3 Independent Study Course: paper 7.5 credits

Objectives

On successful completion of the module, the student should be able to:

Independently formulate and analyse a research problem
Critically discuss this work as well as other students' papers.

Content

The student shall conduct a scientific investigation that is presented in a paper. The subject is selected in consultation with the supervisor. The student is strongly encouraged to choose a subject that relates to themes and course literature in previous course modules in order to improve and deepen his or her knowledge in the field. Moreover, the student is encouraged to write the paper jointly with another student.

Type of Instruction

Various forms of teaching is employed, mainly lectures, tutorials, seminars and assignments.

Module 1. European human rights law, 15 credits:

Teaching consists of lectures, seminars, discussions, simulations and roleplay (Moot court).

Module 2. Political corruption, 7.5 credits:

Teaching consists of lectures, seminars, tutorials and assignments

Module 3. Independent study course: paper, 7.5 credit:

Teaching consists of tutorials and seminars

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E, Fx or F.

The grade A constitutes the highest grade on the scale and the remaining grades follow in descending order where the grade E is the lowest grade on the scale that will result in a pass. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as fail. Fx is formally not a grade and is only used when a student is allowed to complement her/his examination. To receive pass (E or higher) the student should reach the course objectives on all modules. The course grade is based on the grades of the included modules. The grade E requires the student to have received an E or higher on all modules. The grade of C requires a minimum of the grade C on two modules and a minimum of the grade E on the other module. To receive the grade of A requires a minimum of the grade A on two modules and a minimum of C on the other module. Students who have not passed (i.e. received the grade of F) at the regular examination of a module will be offered a new examination shortly after the regular examination. More detailed criteria for assessment are available at the start of each module. Below examination forms and assessment scales for each module is presented.

Module 1. European human rights law, 15 credits:

The module is assessed using the scale A-F above. A pass on the module requires all the module objectives should be fulfilled. Criteria for assessment are available at the start of the module. Examination consists of a written seminar paper, verbal presentation of the paper and a written final exam.

Module 2. Political corruption, 7.5 credits:

The module is assessed using the scale A-F above. A pass on the module requires all the module objectives should be fulfilled. Criteria for assessment are available at the start of the module. Examination consists of essay authoring and written assignment and verbal seminar discussion.

Module 3. Independent study course: paper, 7.5 credit:

The module is assessed using the scale A-F above. A pass on the module requires all the module objectives should be fulfilled. Criteria for assessment are available at the start of the module. Examination consists of authoring a paper. Moreover, the student should discuss his or her own work and other students' work verbally.

Course Evaluation

A course evaluation will be carried out at the end of the course in accordance with the guidelines of Linnaeus University. The result of the evaluation will be reported back to students and will also be communicated the next time the course is held.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

List of references Module 1 - European Human Rights Law 15 credits

European Human Rights Law

Rainey, Bernadette, Wicks, Elizabeth & Clare Ovey (latest edition). *Jacobs, White and Ovey: The European Convention on Human Rights*, Oxford University Press, 500 p.

List of references Module 2 - Political Corruption 7.5 credits

Political Corruption

Anechiarico, Frank & James B. Jacobs (latest edition). *The pursuit of absolute integrity: how corruption control makes government ineffective*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 274 p.

Heywood, Paul (latest edition). *Routledge handbook of political corruption*, Abingdon: Routledge, 366 p.

Johnston, Michael (latest edition). *Syndromes of corruption: wealth, power, and*

democracy, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 266 p.

Lawton, Alan, Rayner, Julie & Karin Lasthuizen (latest edition). *Ethics and management in the public sector*, Abingdon: Routledge, 196p.

Articles provided by the tutor (about 100 p.)

List of references Module 3 - Independent Study Course: paper 7.5 credits

Independent Study Course: paper

Becker, Howard S. & Pamela Richards (latest edition). *Writing for social scientists: how to start and finish your thesis, book, or article*, Chicago: Chicago University Press, 197 p.

Lipson, Charles (latest edition). *How to write a BA Thesis: a practical guide from your first ideas to your finished paper*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 402 p.

Other readings depend on the paper subject chosen by the student. Literature is chosen in consultation with supervisor.