



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Political Science

1SK135 Uthållig och demokratisk samhällsstyrning: utmaningar och hot, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Challenges to sustainable and democratic governance, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Political Science

Subject Group

Political Science

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2018-12-12

Revised 2020-06-18 by Faculty of Social Sciences. Revision of the course literature.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2020

Prerequisites

General entry requirements. English B or English 6 and Civics A or Civics 1b / 1a1+1a2.

Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students shall be able to:

- Describe key aspects of democracy and democratic governance.
- Identify issues that are difficult for democratic governance to handle and explain important reasons for why this is the case.
- Identify a particular societal challenge to sustainable and democratic governance that is developed into a research problem, which is critically discussed.

Content

This course starts with a broad discussion of what democratic governance is. It does so with reference to current challenges to democratic governance that have led to questions about citizens' support for democracy as the best system of governance in many countries as well as reduced trust in democratic institutions also in the most established democracies. The second part of the course uses cases to study how democratic governance systems deal with various current issues that have been found difficult to handle: migration, climate change and other environmental issues, authoritarian governance alternatives, security risks including terrorism, changing terms for international trade, and signs of disintegration of international government organisations.

Type of Instruction

Teaching consists of lectures, seminars and supervision.

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 his/her examination. In order to receive a grade of E in the course, all the objectives must be fulfilled.

In order to receive a final grade of D to A in the course, the criteria for these grades must be attained based on a weighted assessment of all the examinations. Students who fail to receive the grade of Pass (i.e. they have received the grade of F) at the scheduled examination date will have the opportunity to retake the exam close to the original exam date. Information about the grading criteria for the A-F scale is provided to the students in a separate document in connection with the start of the course, at the latest.

Examination consists of a seminar based on questions for discussion prepared by students and a seminar based on a written assignment.

Course Evaluation

A course evaluation is carried out either during or at the end of the course. Results and analysis of the evaluation are presented to the students who have completed the course as well as to new students at the following course date. The course evaluation is conducted anonymously.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Enders, Judith C. & Remig, Moritz (Eds.) (Latest edition). *Theories of sustainable development*. London: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, (202 p.)

Kendall-Taylor, A., Lindstaedt, N., & Frantz, E. (2019). *Democracies and Authoritarian Regimes*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780198820819

Mulligan, Martin (Latest edition). *An introduction to sustainability: environmental, social and personal perspectives*. London: Routledge, (324 p.)

Tuckness, Alex & Wolf, Clark (Latest edition). *This Is Political Philosophy: An Introduction*. John Wiley & Sons, (256 p.) (Selected pages: Part II. Problems of authority and legitimacy (with the emphasis on ch. 5 Democracy))

UNDP (2009). *Democratic Governance Reader: A reference for UNDP practitioners*, (195 p.) Retrived from:
http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/oslo_governance_centre/democratic-governance-reader.html

Additional literature may be chosen for the seminar paper in consultation with the teacher.