



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Political Science

1SK186 Stabila institutioner och föränderligt beteende – Introduktion till amerikansk politik, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Fixed Institutions and Changing Behavior – Introduction to American Politics, 7.5 credits

### **Main field of study**

Political Science

### **Subject Group**

Political Science

### **Level of classification**

First Level

### **Progression**

G1N

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved 2020-01-22

Revised 2020-06-19 by Faculty of Social Sciences. Revision of the course literature.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2020

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements for university studies.

## Objectives

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

- describe and analyse the American political system, in relation to institutional as well as cultural perspectives,
- critically account for the development of the American political system,
- identify, describe and analyse key aspects, events and themes within contemporary American politics.

## Content

The course starts with a brief description and analysis of the constitution of the United States of America, followed by a presentation and discussion of certain important themes within the American political system, such as civil rights, federalism and political culture. A review of the American political institutions follows, and how these function and the interaction between the federal state, the states and the citizens. The course also discusses general elections, political parties and the media, with special emphasis on the latest developments and current challenges.

## Type of Instruction

Teaching consists of lectures and seminars.

## Examination

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

Grade A represents the highest grade, and the subsequent grades follow in descending order, where grade E is the lowest grade that qualifies as a Pass. A grade of F means that the student's performance is assessed as Fail. Fx is not a grade and is only used when a student is permitted to supplement his/her examination.

Examination takes place by means of two seminars including written assignments, assessed by the grades of Pass (G) or Fail (U), and a take-home exam, assessed by the grading scale A-F. In order to receive a grade of E, the intended learning outcomes must be attained and all the examinations must be assessed as at least Pass. The final grade in the course (A-E) is determined on the basis of the written take-home exam.

A retake of the examination is provided in accordance with the Local Regulations for First-Cycle and Second-Cycle Courses and Examination at Linnaeus University.

Should the university determine that a student is entitled to special educational support due to impairment, the examiner may provide the student with an adapted test or the student may carry out the examination in an alternative way.

## Course Evaluation

A course evaluation is carried out either during or at the end of the course. Results and analysis 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

Mckay, David. (2018) *American Politics and Society* (9th Edition). Chichester, West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN: 9781119167532 (paperback) 9781119167549 (eBook, epub-format) 9781119167556 (eBook, pdf). 496 p.

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