



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Political Science

4SHÄ2E Samhällskunskap V, inkl. självständigt arbete, avancerad nivå (ämneslärarexamen, för arbete i gymnasieskolan), 30 högskolepoäng

Social studies V, including independent project, second cycle (Master of arts in secondary education for upper secondary, 30 credits)

### Subject Group

Social Studies

### Level of classification

Second Level

### Progression

A1N

### Date of Ratification

Approved 2015-01-21

Revised 2015-05-29 by Faculty of Social Sciences.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2015

### Prerequisites

NO VALUE DEFINED

## Objectives

After completing the course, students shall be able to:

- independently identify and formulate problems of relevance to further research and the professional activity
- independently assess and adopt a critical approach to different theories, methods and scientific studies as well as relate these to their own studies and professional activity.

### Module 1 Theory of Political Science, 15 credits

After completing the module, students shall be able to:

- explain the basic features of theories and themes of political science
- identify and problematise key issues
- independently analyse the strengths and weaknesses of dominant theories
- independently apply theories to areas where they are suitable
- explain orally and in writing the arguments and conclusions contained in the course literature.

### Module 2 Degree Project in Social Studies, advanced level, 15 credits

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After completing the module, students shall be able to:

- demonstrate an in-depth theoretical scientific awareness with regard to the relationship between the project's theoretical perspectives, choice of methods, analysis and results, and methodological discussion
- demonstrate familiarity with the relevant scientific, subject didactic, social and ethical aspects in the degree project
- present, interpret and problematise firmly grounded conclusions with demonstrated relevance to the profession
- produce a degree project that is well-structured and linguistically correct
- defend their degree projects with objective and relevant arguments
- constructively and critically review another equivalent degree project and communicate its merits as well as its shortcomings.

## Content

### **Module 1 Theory of Political Science, 15 credits**

The course addresses the key themes of political science: power, democracy and political organisation. Special emphasis is placed on modern political theories within these themes. The course provides a coherent illustration of different theoretical perspectives as well an overview of political approaches which the students can examine in more detail in the subsequent degree project.

### **Module 2 Degree Project in Social Studies, advanced level, 15 credits**

During this course, the students conduct research relating to a problem area that is of relevance to the profession of teaching in the subject of social studies. In this course, students are trained to independently write a scientific paper, conduct a problematised discussion of the paper during its production, and incorporate constructive criticism. In addition, the students practice their ability to read, problematise and critically review the scientific papers of others.

### **Professional Basis and Professional Progression**

In this course, the students develop a deepened understanding of the profession. Previous studies in core subjects and the student placement training are combined together in a natural way with subject and didactic studies at an advanced level. This prepares the students to contribute to the development of the profession's fundamental values by means of an inclusive approach and the demonstrated awareness of gender and equality aspects and human rights.

### **Scientific Approach and Progression**

The degree project at the advanced level provides the students with the opportunity to conduct scientific research by utilising the different parts of the course, studies in two subjects, the student placement training and the core subjects. The students independently identify a problem area that is of relevance to the teaching profession. Based on the critical evaluation of previous research, the students independently choose and apply theories and methods, with due consideration to the ethical principles of research. The students analyse and evaluate their own empirical data and discuss the credibility of interpretations and conclusions. In this course, the future teacher's scientific approach is further developed with regard to both the subject and the profession, and prepares the students for scientific discussions in their professional life.

## Type of Instruction

Module 1 Theory of political science, 15 credits

Teaching consists of lectures and seminars.

Module 2 Degree project in social studies, advanced level, 15 credits

Teaching consists of supervision (individual or in groups) and seminars.



## Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

Module 1 Theory of political science, 15 credits

The examination consists of four seminars (40% of the course examination) and a written assignment (60% of the course examination). In order to be awarded a grade of Pass, all examination components must be assessed as Pass. In order to be awarded a grade of Pass with Distinction, it is required that all the examination components are assessed as Pass and the written assignment as Pass with Distinction.

Module 2 Degree project in social studies, advanced level, 15 credits

Examination of this module takes place by means of a written degree project which is defended in an examination seminar, as well as a public examination and discussion of another student's degree project. To be awarded a grade of Pass, the course objectives must be attained.

To be awarded a grade of Pass with Distinction for the entire course, it is required that a grade of Pass with Distinction is obtained for both modules.

## Course Evaluation

A course evaluation is carried out at the end of the course. The evaluation is compiled in writing and presented to the students. The results are reported to the appropriate departmental body and the programme council concerned, and provided by the course coordinator of the department.

## Required Reading and Additional Study Material

### Module 1, Theory of political science, 15 credits

Alonso, Sonia, John Keane & Wolfgang Merkel (Eds. 2011) *The Future of Representative Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (322 p).

Butler, Judith (1999) *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. London: Routledge (66 p).

Chabal, Patrick, and Jean-Pascal Daloz (2006) *Culture Troubles: Politics and the Interpretation of Meaning*. Chicago: Chicago University Press (362 p).

Dahl, Robert A. (1991) *Democracy and its Critics*. Yale University Press (405 p).

Diamond, Larry and Leonardo Morlino (Eds. 2005, latest edition), *Assessing the Quality of Democracy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press (270 p.).

Foucault, Michel (1986) *The Foucault Reader*, ed. Paul Rabinow. London: Penguin (78 p.).

Hacking, Ian (1999) *The Social Construction of What?* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press (162 p.).

Haugaard, Mark (Ed. 2002) *Power: a reader*. Manchester: Manchester University Press (350 p.).

Peters, Guy B. (2005, latest edition) *Institutional Theory in Political Science. The New Institutionalism*. 2nd edition: London, Continuum International Publishing (165 p.).

Philips, Anne (1998) *Feminism and Politics*. Oxford Readings in Feminism. Oxford: Oxford University Press (488 p.).

Articles may be included (approx. 200 pages).

**Module 2, Degree project in social studies, advanced level, 15 credits**

Literature is chosen in consultation with the supervisor, approx. 1,200 pages.