



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Political Science

4SK120 Politiska partier och partisystem, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Political parties and party systems, 7.5 credits

Main field of study
Political Science

Subject
Political Science

Level
Second cycle

Progression
A1N

Date of Ratification
Approved 2016-11-16.
Revised 2024-12-11. Revision of course literature.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2026.

Prerequisites
Minimum of 90 credits in a main field of study in the social sciences or economics, of which at least 30 credits in the study of Political Science or an equivalent subject.
English 6 or equivalent.

Objectives

After completing the course, students shall be able to:

- identify and problematise key issues relating to political parties and party systems
- independently formulate scientific problems within party research
- present independent and creative analyses, arguments and conclusions with

regard to the key issues concerning political parties and party systems, both orally and in writing

- critically evaluate and problematise the results of research into political parties and party systems
- demonstrate the ability to monitor and evaluate knowledge trends within research into political parties and party systems.

Content

The course examines four themes on the basis of research into political parties and party systems: party organisation, the parties and the voters, party systems and cartel party theory.

Type of Instruction

Teaching consists of lectures and seminars.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E 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 consists of two components; seminars (2 credits) and a written examination (5.5 credits). The seminars consist of three assignments that are presented in seminars, and the written examination consists of one assignment. Both examination components are based on the course literature and the student is awarded marks for each assignment. A total of 50 marks can be awarded: maximum 5 marks per assignment presented in the respective seminars (a total of maximum 15 marks), and maximum 35 marks for the written examination. At an obtained grade of E for both course components, the course grade is based on the achieved marks out of the total of 50 marks.

For a grade of Pass (E), it is required that all the intended learning outcomes are fulfilled and that the student is awarded at least half of the maximum 50 marks. For a final course grade of D-A, it is required that the criteria for these grades are fulfilled based on the adding up of the student's results on all examination assignments.

Resit examination is offered in accordance with Linnaeus University's Local regulations for courses and examination at the first- and second-cycle levels.

In the event that a student with a disability is entitled to special study support, the examiner will decide on adapted or alternative examination arrangements.

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 the students at the following course date. The course evaluation is conducted anonymously.

Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following course/courses of

which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course:
4SK408 Political parties 7.5 credits.

Other Information

Students are informed about the grading criteria of the course by no later than at the beginning of the course.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Bolin, Niklas, Nicholas Aylott, Benjamin von dem Berge and Thomas Poguntke (2017) "Patterns of intra-party democracy across the world", pp. 158-184 in *Organizing political parties: Representation, participation, and power*, eds. Susan E Scarrow, Paul D Webb & Thomas Poguntke. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (27 p.).

Downs, Anthony (1957). "An Economic Theory of Political Action in a Democracy", *Journal of Political Economy* 65(2): 135-150 (16 p.).

Enroth, Henrik (2015). "Cartelization versus representation? On a misconception in contemporary party theory". *Party Politics* 23(2): 124-134 (11 p.).

Enroth, Henrik (2018). "On the concept of a Cartel Party" pp. 27-41 in *Cartelization, Convergence, or Increasing Similarities? Lessons from Parliamentary Parties*, eds. Henrik Enroth and Magnus Hagevi. Colchester: ECPR Press. Available in digital form as an eBook at the university library (15 p.).

Hagevi, Magnus (2018). "Follow the money: Public subsidies and the changing intraparty balance of power between different faces of the party organisation—the case of Sweden." *Representation*, 54 (2): 159-175, available on the internet (17 p.).

Hagevi, Magnus and Karl Loxbo (2018). "Are the predictions of the Cartel Party Thesis supported in the Swedish case?" pp. 43-69 in *Cartelization, Convergence, or Increasing Similarities? Lessons from Parliamentary Parties*, eds. Henrik Enroth and Magnus Hagevi. Colchester: ECPR Press. Available in digital form as an eBook at the university library (27 p.).

Hagevi, Magnus and Henrik Enroth (2018). "Conclusions" pp. 205-214 in *Cartelization, Convergence, or Increasing Similarities? Lessons from Parliamentary Parties*, eds. Henrik Enroth and Magnus Hagevi. Colchester: ECPR Press, available in digital form as an eBook at the university library (10 p.).

Hagevi, Magnus, Sofie Blombäck, Marie Demker, Jonas Hinnfors and Karl Loxbo (2022). *Party realignment in western Europe: Electoral drivers and global constraints*, eds. Henrik Enroth and Magnus Hagevi. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, available in digital form as an eBook at the university library (268 p.).

Inglehart, Ronald and Scott C Flanagan (1987) "Value Change in Industrial Societies." *American Political Science Review*, 81 (4): 1289-1319. (31 p.).

Katz, Richard S. and Mair, Peter (1995). "Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party", *Party Politics*, 1(1):5-28.

Katz, Richard S. and Mair, Peter (2009). "The Cartel Party Thesis: A Restatement", *Perspectives on Politics*, 7(4):753-766.

Kitschelt, Herbert (2018). "Cartels and competition: An introduction" pp. 1-13 in

Cartelization, Convergence, or Increasing Similarities? Lessons from Parliamentary Parties, eds. Henrik Enroth and Magnus Hagevi. Colchester: ECPR Press, available in digital form as an eBook at the university library (13 p.).

Kriesi, Hanspeter et al (2006). "Globalization and the transformation of the national political space: Six European Countries Compared", *European Journal of Political Research* 45: 921-956 (36 p.).

Loxbo, Karl (2014). "Voters' Perceptions of Policy Convergence and the Short-term Opportunities of Anti-immigrant Parties: Examples from Sweden", *Scandinavian Political Studies*, 37(3): 239-262.

Loxbo, Karl (2013). "The fate of intraparty democracy: Leadership autonomy and activist influence in the mass party and the cartel party." *Party Politics*, 19 (4): 537-554, available on the Internet (18 p.).

Loxbo, Karl and Mats Sjölin (2017). "Parliamentary opposition on the wane? The Case of Sweden, 1970–2014" *Government and Opposition*, 52 (4): 587-613, available on the Internet (28 p.).

Mair, Peter (red) (1990). *The West European Party System*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, (364 p.). ISBN: 0198275846.

Mudde, Cas (2010). "The Populist Radical Right: A Pathological Normalcy". *Party Politics* 33(6): 1167-1186 (19 p.).

Scientific publications may also be included (50 p.).