



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Political Science

4SK402 Utrikespolitisk analys, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Foreign Policy Analysis, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Political Science

Subject

Political Science

Level

Second cycle

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2018-08-22.

Revised 2025-11-12. 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, or an equivalent subject. English 6 or equivalent.

Objectives

After completing the course, students shall be able to:

- account for theories used in foreign policy analysis
- identify and problematize foreign policy issues
- define and formulate an independent research problem within the scope of the theme foreign policy analysis
- independently and in a creative manner conduct a foreign policy analysis

assignment

- orally as well as in writing account for arguments and conclusions in discussions with teachers and other students.

Content

The course discusses and problematizes theoretical and political discussions with regard to contemporary issues on foreign policy analysis. This entails deeper discussions on the aspects of foreign policy, how it is shaped and why, with special emphasis on the foreign policy of powerful states in relation to international issues of current interest. One or a few politically topical foreign policy issues are also discussed in more detail.

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 three seminars including written assignments, graded as Pass (G) or Fail (U), and an advanced and more extensive written assignment, assessed by the use of the grading scale A-F. To be awarded a grade of Pass (E), it is required that all the intended learning outcomes and all the examination components are assessed as Pass. The final grade in the course (A-F) is determined by the grade for the more extensive assignment. Information about the grading criteria of the A-F scale is given in a separate document provided at the start of the course, at the latest.

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

Alden, Chris & Aran, Amnon (Latest edition). *Foreign Policy Analysis: New Approaches*. New York: Routledge, (177 p).

Brummer, Klaus & Oppermann, Kai (2024). *Foreign Policy Analysis*. Oxford, (348 p). ISBN: 9780192857453, 0192857452.

Smith, Steve, Hadfield, Amelia & Dunne, Tim (Eds.) (Latest edition). *Foreign Policy – Theories, Actors, Cases*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, (551 p).

Scientific articles also included, approx. 300 pages.