



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences  
Department of Political Science

4SK450 Fundament för global fred, rättvisa och välbefinnande I, 15  
högskolepoäng

Foundations of Global Peace, Justice and Well-Being I, 15 credits

### **Main field of study**

Political Science  
Peace and Development Studies  
Legal Science

### **Subject**

Political Science

### **Level**

Second cycle

### **Progression**

A1N

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved 2025-12-18.  
The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2026.

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies and specific entry requirements: Bachelor's degree in social sciences, including at least 30 credits in the study of Political Science, Peace and Development Studies, Law or another relevant subject within social sciences, the humanities or economics.

Applicants must prove their knowledge of English: English 6/English B/English level 2 from Upper Secondary School or the equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS, or alternatively a bachelor's degree from an education held in English.

### **Objectives**

After completing the course, students will be able to:

- account for central theories, themes and empirical evidence and analyze cases related to global peace, justice, and well-being,
- account for the central theories, themes and empirical evidence relating to the sources of intrastate and interstate armed conflict,
- account for and compare various theories, themes and empirical evidence relating to peace-building, conflict prevention, conflict transformation and post-conflict processes,
- account for and compare various contemporary challenges to social justice and the advancement of global approaches to justice and human rights,
- identify some of the main threats to human security and well-being on individual, societal and international/global levels,
- understand and compare specific practical-policy and legal implications and contemporary issues related to global peace, justice and well-being,
- independently problematize and formulate scientific questions concerning global peace, justice and well-being.

## Content

The course addresses and critically examines contemporary theoretical and political debates concerning the core subjects of global peace, justice, and well-being. In line with the United Nations' Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, it develops a common framework that highlights the interrelationships between these concepts, both in theory and in policy practice. Several of today's political, environmental and socio-economic challenges—such as climate change, pandemics, state and human insecurity, violent conflicts, cybersecurity threats, rising inequality within and between states, escalating geopolitical tensions, humanitarian crises, lack of inclusive economic, social, and political development, autocratisation, mistrust and polarization—interconnect the global arena, regional, state (national), and local levels. The three concepts of peace, justice, and well-being are mutually interlinked and address these challenges.

## Type of Instruction

Teaching consists of synchronous and asynchronous lectures, class discussions, workshops, practical exercises, seminars, and field/study visits.

## 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 oral group assignments presented in seminars (30% of the total course assessment) and one individual written assignment (70%), complemented by an individual oral examination.

Seminars are graded Pass/Fail. For a grade of Pass (E), it is required that all the intended learning outcomes are fulfilled, that the student is awarded a Pass at all three seminars and the final written assignment.

The final grade is determined by the grade received for the final written assignment (A-F)

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 should be conducted during the course or in connection with its conclusion. The results and analysis of the completed course evaluation should be promptly communicated to students who have completed the course. Students participating in the next course instance should be informed of the results of the previous course evaluation and any improvements that have been made, no later than at the start of the course.

## Other Information

The course is mandatory for the master's program Global Peace, Justice and Well-Being. The language of instruction is English. Teaching is done in a hybrid form. Students are informed about the grading criteria of the course no later than at the beginning of the course.

## Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Acemoglu, Daron & Robinson, James. A. (Latest edition). *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. New York: Crown Business. (Selected chapters, 300 p).

Ankrah, Doreen Bristow, James, Hires, Daniel & Henriksson, Jan Artem (2023). Inner Development Goals: From Inner Growth to Outer Change. *Field Actions Science Reports. The Journal of Field Actions*, p. 82–87.

Barash, David P. (Eds.) (Latest edition). *Approaches to Peace: A Reader in Peace Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, (336 p).

Bautista, Tara G., Roman, Gretchen, Khan, Munziba, Lee, Michele, Sahbaz, Sumeyra, Duthely, Lunthita, Knippenberg, Alexa, Macias-Burgos, Miracle A., Davidson, Alec, Scaramutti, Carolina, Gabilove, Janice, Pusek, Susan, Mehta, Darshan & Bredella, Miriam A. (2023). What is well-being? A scoping review of the conceptual and operational definitions of occupational well-being. *Journal Clinical Translational Science*. 7(1), p. 1-12.

Brooks, Thom (Latest edition). *Global Justice: An Introduction*, Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell, (167 p).

Campbell, Susanna (Latest edition). *Global Governance and Local Peace: Accountability and Performance in International Peacebuilding*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, (260 p).

Chetail, Vincent (2023). The contribution of the International Court of Justice to international humanitarian law, *IRRC*, 85(850), pp. 235-267.

Cohrs, J. Cristopher, Christie, Daniel, White, Mathew & Chaitali, Das (2013). Contributions of Positive Psychology to Peace Toward Global Well-Being and Resilience, *The American Psychologist*. 68(7), pp. 590-600

Francioni, Francesco (2018). *Global Justice, Equality and Social Inclusion: What Kind*

of “Modernization” of International Law? I Mazzeschi, Riccardo Pisillo & De Sena, Pasquale (red.). *Global Justice, Human Rights and the Modernization of International Law*, Springer Cham. ( Chapter. 12, pp. 225-238). ISBN 978-3-319-90226-5

Galtung, Johan (2005). *Meeting basic needs: peace and development*. In Huppert, Felicia A., Baylis, Nick & Keverne Barry (Eds.), *The Science of Well-Being*. Oxford: Oxford Academic.

Helliwell, John. F., Layard, Richard, Sachs, Jeffrey, D., De Neve, John-Emmanuel, Aknin, Lara B. & Wang, Shuang. (Eds.). (Latest edition). *World Happiness Report*. Oxford: University of Oxford: Wellbeing Research Centre. (Summary, Chapter 1&2 and Index), (50 p).

Inglehart, Ronald, F., Puranen, Bi, & Welzel, Christian (2015). Declining willingness to fight for one’s country: The individual-level basis of the long peace. *Journal of Peace Research*, 52(4), pp. 25-37.

Institute for Economics and Peace (2025). *The Global Peace Index*. Available online (100 p).

Jarden, Aaron & Roache, Aannalise (2023). What Is Wellbeing? *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 20(6) (5 p).

Ramsbotham, Oliver, Woodhouse, Tom, Miall, Hugh & Toros, Harmonie (2024). *Contemporary Conflict Resolution* (5th ed). Cambridge: Polity. (496 p). ISBN: 9781509557592.

Rawls, John., The Law of Peoples, *Critical Inquiry*, 20 (1), pp. 36-68.

Sen, Amartya (Latest edition). *Development as Freedom*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, (200 p).

Sen, Amartya (2009). *The Idea of Justice*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, part III p. 225-318.

Sunstein, Cass R. (Latest edition). *Designing Democracy: What Constitutions Do*, Oxford University Press, p. 3-48.

United National Development Program (Latest edition). *Human Development Report*. New York: UNDP (Summary, Chapter 1 and Index ), (50 p).

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) (Latest publication). *Democracy Report 2025 5 Years of Autocratization – Democracy Trumped?* Göteborg: V-Dem Institute Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg (Summary and Chapter 1 and 2), (30 p).

Wallensteen, Peter (Latest edition). *Understanding Conflict Resolution: War, Peace and the Global System*. London: Sage Publications, (280 p).

Scientific Articles about 150 p. and scientific reports 150 p.