



Programme syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Internationella samhällsstudier, inriktning politik och samhällsanalys, 180 högskolepoäng

International Politics Studies, specialization Political Analysis, 180 credits

Level

First Level

Date of Ratification

Approved 2009-09-15

Revised 2018-12-06 by the Faculty Board within the Faculty of Social Sciences

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2019

Prerequisites

General entry requirements and English B (Field-specific entry requirements 2/A2).
Basic eligibility and English B

Description of Programme

In an increasingly globalized and obscure world, people are needed who can analyse social and development issues. The International Politics Studies Programme combines political science with social philosophy, history of ideas and interdisciplinary studies. An entire semester is devoted to English with major practical elements. The labour market for the programme is large and growing, such as international organisations, businesses and the public sector, in Sweden or abroad.

Objectives

Qualitative Targets in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance

Knowledge and Understanding

In order to obtain a bachelor's degree the student shall:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding within the main field of study, including knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field and an understanding of applicable methodologies in the field, carry out specialised study in some aspect of the field as well demonstrate awareness of current research issues.

Competence and Skills

In order to obtain a bachelor's degree the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to search out, compile, evaluate and critically interpret relevant information in their approach to a problem as well as critically discuss

- phenomena, issues and situations
- demonstrate the ability to autonomously identify, formulate and solve problems as well as carry out assignments within a given time frame
- both verbally and in writing, demonstrate the ability to present and discuss information, problems and solutions in dialogue with various groups
- demonstrate the proficiency required to independently work within the field at which the education is aimed.

Judgement and Approach

In order to obtain a bachelor's degree the student shall:

- within the main field of study, demonstrate the ability to make assessments with regard to relevant scientific, societal and ethical aspects
- demonstrate insight into the role of knowledge in society as well as an understanding of the responsibility of the individual for how it is used
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and to develop the individual competence.

Programme Specific Objectives

In addition to the objectives given above, the following intended learning outcomes are given for the International Politics Studies Programme at the Linnaeus University.

After completing the programme, students shall be able to:

- argue and analyse theoretical and normative issues, and critically examine and discuss issues and developments in the field of International Politics Studies
- communicate both orally and in writing in Swedish and in English in a professional manner
- be able to apply their knowledge and skills in further education at the advanced level.

Content

The programme is organised by the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The programme is managed by a Programme Coordinator. A Programme Council promotes long-term and strategic development of the programme, and the programme council includes the programme coordinator, two teachers, three student representatives and two co-opted external members when required. The programme involves the department of Cultural Sciences, the department of Political Science and the department of Languages.

Programme Overview

The first semester of the programme is an introduction to the humanities and social studies from a social science theory and philosophical perspective. The aim is to provide a solid theoretical foundation for further social science studies and a scientific approach. The second semester includes thematic studies based on a topical integration of cultural geography, political science and practical philosophy. This creates opportunities for a productive way of studying both historical and contemporary problems of a multi-dimensional nature.

Year 2 starts with a semester of study in political science, followed by a semester of study in English with a focus on communication in international contexts. Then follows two semesters of study in the main field, political science, 90 credits, ending with a thesis on 15 credits. All courses are mandatory for a degree in International Social Studies, specialisation politics and social analysis. It is possible to change courses, whereby the students may obtain another relevant degree.

Programme Courses

Year 1

History of Ideas, Philosophy and Social Theory, 30 credits, G1N Mandatory

The course includes the foundations of the history of ideas, philosophy of science and scientific methods. The aim of the course is for students to acquire knowledge of conceptual analysis, deductive reasoning and normative analysis on the basis of central moral philosophical theories. The aim is also for students to learn how to apply conceptual analysis as well as normative analysis for key political issues, apply the foundations of scientific methods with the emphasis on evaluation of sources, and be able to account for the main features of the history of science.

Studies of the International Society, 30 credits, G1N Mandatory

The course discusses different perspectives on the study of international social conditions, where various issues are caused by key aspects. The aim is to specifically focus on the main elements of the development of the national states in Europe, the role of nationalism and national identity in the causes and developments of international conflicts, the correlation between demography and use of resources in a global perspective, the role of use of resources for the global economic and social development, the moral complexity of human sociality, as well as the correlation and conflicts between human rights and culture-specific rights.

Year 2

Political Science I (main field of study), 30 credits, G1N Mandatory

The course includes the foundations of the study of political science and the aim is for students to acquire basic knowledge of the subject Political Science, a basic understanding of the breadth of the subject and its sub-disciplines, a general understanding of the current issues within the field, and basic skills required to be able to problematize current issues within the field.

English 30 credits, G1N Mandatory

The course includes basic linguistic skills in English and the aim is for students to gain an understanding of and be able to apply basic linguistic concepts, account for linguistic variations, be able to write academic papers, understand and explain grammatical principles of the English language, be able to account for the content in various texts in English as well as understand and use basic literature concepts, account for inter-cultural issues, and be able to give a conference presentation in English. The language of instruction in the course is English.

Year 3

Political Science II (main field of study), 30 credits, G1F Mandatory

The course includes further studies in political science and the aim is for students to improve their knowledge and skills in the scientific study of politics, be able to autonomously reflect on and analyse issues within the field of political science, acquire basic knowledge of methods in political science, and be able to apply theories of political science and put these in relation to the empiricism within the chosen definition of a problem.

Political Science III (main field of study), 30 credits (including a thesis on 15 credits), G2E Mandatory

The course includes specialised studies in political science and the aim is for students to be able to autonomously and critically reflect on and analyse issues within the field of political science, acquire deepened knowledge of theories and methods in political science, be able to autonomously process political scientific material and use their advanced knowledge of theories and methods in the writing of a thesis, in which they shall formulate and discuss a research issue.

The order of the courses given may change.

Societal Relevance

The programme as a whole is based on analytical studies and associated skills relevant to society, including basic training in learning how to argue value issues. These studies and skills are also relevant to various tasks in society, within authorities as well as within organisations and businesses. The programme council may co-opt representatives from the global labour market. Students have the opportunity to meet representatives from different kinds of organisations and businesses through for instance study tours and study visits. External guest lectures reinforce various of the courses included in the programme, as well as other lectures and talks to which the students are invited.

Internationalisation

Students are encouraged to study parts of the programme at a higher education institution abroad. Semester 5, Political Science II, is primarily recommended as suitable for studies abroad, but semesters 3 or 4 may also be appropriate. Linnaeus University has a number of partner universities within the Erasmus and Nordplus exchange programmes, as well as bilateral agreements with other universities, which provides the students with extensive opportunities for studies abroad. Application for credit transfer shall be submitted to the university in accordance with the guidelines in force and is approved by the programme coordinator.

Programme Perspectives

The programme addresses issues concerning sustainable development, specifically in relation to the course in human geography during semester two, and generally this subject is discussed in all courses. Gender and diversity issues are highlighted specifically in semester two, included in semester 3 and discussed as a part of the courses in political science.

The programme is specifically focused on education, in particular during semesters 1 and 2, where the students acquire a broadened knowledge perspective through the study of several academic subjects and since they encounter several different, and partially unfamiliar, perspectives in their studies.

The entire programme is characterized by an international approach focusing on the global development of society. An entrepreneurial approach is specifically introduced during semester 3, through cooperation with the Entrepreneurial university at Linnaeus university.

Quality Development

Evaluations are carried out continuously after each course and of the entire programme after completing the studies.

Students participate in evaluations of individual courses as well as the entire programme. Each module and the programme as a whole will be evaluated in consultation between the responsible teachers, students and the programme council. Compilations of the course and the programme evaluations are filed by the Department of Social Sciences.

Degree Certificate

After completed studies in accordance with the objectives specified in the Higher Education Ordinance's system of qualifications and Linnaeus University's system of qualifications, the student can apply for a diploma. Those having completed the International Politics Studies Programme with a Specialisation in Political Analysis 180 credits, can obtain the following qualification:

Bachelor of Science with specialization in Political Analysis
Main field of study: Political Science

The diploma is written in Swedish and English. The diploma also comes with a Diploma Supplement (in English).

Other Information

Study trips within the programme are voluntary and are hence funded mostly by the students themselves.