



Course Syllabus
Methods, Political Science

Metod, statsvetenskap

Course Code	2SS064	Main Field of Study	Political Science: Security Studies
Valid from Semester	Spring 2022	Department	Department of Political Science and Law
Education Cycle	Advanced level	Subject	Political Science
Scope	15.0	Language of Instruction	The teaching is conducted in English.
Progression	A1N	Decided by	The Research and Education Board's Course Syllabus Committee at the Swedish Defence University
Grading Scale	Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction	Decision date	2022-01-01
Revision	1.0		

Entry Requirements

Accepted to the Master's Programme in Politics and War.

Course Content and Structure

Methods on how to study political and social phenomena are a core component of the social-scientific endeavour and play a fundamental role in understanding and explaining war and peace, as well as crisis management, security and defence policies. This course offers the student a comprehensive and systematic overview of existing approaches, methods and tools in war studies and political science. The course aims to provide the student with the necessary skills required to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of both qualitative and quantitative methods, and to be able to independently conduct scientific studies. The course includes both positivist and postpositivist approaches and methods. The course has a pluralistic aim and focuses on the different steps of the research process: concept formation, problem formulation, metatheory, research design, data collection techniques and qualitative and quantitative data analysis. The student is given an introduction to well-established approaches as well as those at the forefront of the research field.

Intended Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, the student is expected to be able to:

- assess qualitative and quantitative research designs, particularly those relevant to political science and war studies
- demonstrate an ability to use social science concepts in research design
- identify research problems
- develop an appropriate research design based on a research problem
- assess and choose suitable data collection techniques
- demonstrate ability to assess and conduct research from a positive and post-positive approach
- analyse data using a number of qualitative and quantitative methods.

Type of Instruction

Instruction includes lectures and seminars.

Assessment

Examination

Scope: 15.0

Grading Scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction

Assessment takes place individually through the submission of individual written assignments and active participation in

mandatory seminars.

The examiner may decide to allow supplementation in order to achieve a passing grade.

The examiner may decide that absence from mandatory seminars may be compensated by submitting a written supplementary assignment.

Grading

To earn the grade Pass with Distinction in the course, the student must actively participate in the mandatory seminars, and earn Pass with Distinction on the majority of assignments, with no assignment receiving a grade below Pass.

To earn the grade Pass in the course, the student must actively participate in the mandatory seminars, and earn a grade of Pass or better for all written assignments.

Grading criteria are specified in the course description.

Restrictions in Number of Examinations

There is no limit on the total number of examination opportunities.

Restrictions Concerning Degree

The course cannot be part of a degree whose content matches the content of this course in whole or in part.

Transitional Provisions

When a course is no longer provided or when the content of a course has been significantly altered, the student has the right to be examined in accordance with this course syllabus twice per academic year over a period of two years.

Miscellaneous

The course is given within the Master's Programme in Politics and War.

- On completion of the course, an evaluation will be conducted under the auspices of the course director and will serve as the basis for any changes to the course.
- If a student has a decision from the Swedish Defense University on special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may decide on alternative forms of examination for the student.



Reading List
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Course Code	2SS064
Revision	1.0
Reading List Valid from Date	--
Reading List Decided Date	--

Literature Methods

Klemke, E.D., Hollinger, R., & Kline, A.D., (1998), *Introductory readings in the philosophy of science*, 2nd. ed., New York, Prometheus Books.