



**Course Syllabus**  
**The Sit Room: Executing US Strategy**

The Sit Room: att omsätta amerikansk strategi

---

<b>Course Code</b>	2SS074	<b>Main Field of Study</b>	Political Science: Security Studies
<b>Valid from Semester</b>	Spring 2022	<b>Department</b>	Department of Political Science and Law
<b>Education Cycle</b>	Advanced level	<b>Subject</b>	Political Science
<b>Scope</b>	7.5	<b>Language of Instruction</b>	The teaching is conducted in English.
<b>Progression</b>	A1N	<b>Decided by</b>	The Research and Education Board's Course Syllabus Committee at the Swedish Defence University
<b>Grading Scale</b>	Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction	<b>Decision date</b>	2022-01-01
<b>Revision</b>	1.0		

---

#### Entry Requirements

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

#### Course Content and Structure

From the basement of the White House, American diplomats, armed forces and financial resources are directed to meet various challenges and crises across large parts of the world. It is a place where ideas are confronted with reality, intellectual principles meet hard-earned experience and professional expertise, and political ambitions are sometimes limited by strict budget constraints.

The purpose of the course is to study American foreign and defence policy from a practitioner perspective via its most important meeting and decision forum, the Sit Room in the White House. The course begins with the students becoming acquainted with this forum and the officials who, in addition to the President and his closest advisers, exercise influence there. We will then try to familiarise ourselves with two types of crisis situations, where strategic guidelines shall be implemented in relation to a concrete, urgent security issue. Certain themes recur during the course: goal and value conflicts, time aspects, and local and global repercussions of American action and/or of restraint.

Depending on the number of students, the course is held in seminar form, or as a combination of lectures and seminars.

#### Intended Learning Outcomes

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

- present the division of roles between different decision-makers and the institutions they represent when American strategy is translated into foreign and defence policy practice
- familiarise him/herself with and analyse concrete challenges that US decision-makers dealt with in the 1990s and may need to address in the near future
- critically discuss ethical and theoretical assumptions concerning American foreign and defence policy
- decision-making identify and problematise value conflicts, principled and practical considerations that guide the representatives of superpowers in foreign and defence policy

#### Type of Instruction

Seminars and Lectures

#### Assessment

#### Examination



Scope: 7.5

Grading Scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction

Assessment takes place through a combination of verbal and individual written seminar assignments as well as a final course paper dedicated to an subject agreed with the teacher. After announcement of the supplemental task, the student has ten working days for supplementation, unless special circumstances exist that are acceptable to the examiner.

Active attendance at the seminars is mandatory. The examiner may decide to allow submission of a supplementary assignment to make up for an absence or shortcomings in active and constructive participation in mandatory components of the course.

A student who fails to attend more than one mandatory component cannot pass the module and must instead participate the next time the course is offered. One (1) occasion of absence shall be made up by a (written or oral) assignment.

The examiner may decide to allow supplementation in order to achieve a passing grade. Course papers submitted after the deadline will not be graded unless special circumstances exist that are acceptable to the examiner.

### **Grading**

Grades are set according to a three-grade scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). Grading criteria are specified in the course description.

A grade of Pass or Fail is given for the seminars.

A grade of Pass with Distinction, Pass or Fail is given for the written assignment.

To earn the grade Pass (G) for the course, the student must earn a G for the assignment and a G for other assessed components.

To earn the grade Pass with Distinction (VG) for the course, the student must earn a VG for the written assignment and a G for other assessed components.

### **Restrictions in Number of Examinations**

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

### **Restrictions Concerning Degree**

The course cannot be included in a degree with another course whose content fully or partially corresponds to the content of this course.

### **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**

- If a student has a decision from the Swedish Defence University regarding special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may decide on alternative forms of examination for the student.
- 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.

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

The course is given in English.



Reading List

**The Sit Room: Executing US Strategy**

The Sit Room: att omsätta amerikansk strategi

---

<b>Course Code</b>	2SS074
<b>Revision</b>	1.0
<b>Reading List Valid from Date</b>	--
<b>Reading List Decided Date</b>	--

---