



**Course Syllabus**  
**Designing and Doing Research, Political Science**

Forskningsdesign och analysmetoder, statsvetenskap

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<b>Course Code</b>	2SS080	<b>Main Field of Study</b>	Political Science: Security Studies
<b>Valid from Semester</b>	Autumn 2023	<b>Department</b>	Department of Political Science and Law
<b>Education Cycle</b>	Advanced level	<b>Subject</b>	Political Science
<b>Scope</b>	15.0	<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>	2023-06-21
<b>Revision</b>	1.2		

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#### Entry Requirements

Bachelor's degree of 180 credits, of which 90 credits are in War Studies or an equivalent subject. English skills equivalent to English B or English 6.

#### Course Content and Structure

Designing coherent and consistent research is essential for studying political and social phenomena. Good research plays a fundamental role in understanding and explaining war and peace, as well as crisis management, security and defence policies. The course offers the student a broad overview of existing approaches, methods and research tools in war studies and political science. In addition to learning specific analytical methods, the course aims to provide students with the necessary skills to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various approaches to research, including ethical considerations when conducting research. The course is divided into two parts. The first part is dedicated to various ways in which the student can produce knowledge and appropriately construct research designs. The second part aims at creating the conditions needed for the student to obtain the necessary skills to analyze and apply various neopositivist and interpretivist methods.

#### Intended Learning Outcomes

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

##### Knowledge and understanding

- compare and contrast different research methods,

##### Competence and skills

- apply relevant social science concepts related to various research traditions,
- develop an appropriate research design based on a given research problem,

##### Judgement and approach

- independently assess the strengths and weaknesses of different research designs,
- critically evaluate methodological choices in published research.

#### Type of Instruction

Seminars

Lectures

#### 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 for all written 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 the course is no longer given or when the course content has changed substantially, the student has the right to be examined once per semester during a three-term period in accordance with this syllabus.

**Miscellaneous**

If the Swedish Defence University has formally decided that the student is entitled to receive special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may decide on alternative forms of examination for the student.

On the completion of the course, an evaluation will be conducted under the auspices of the course director, which will form the basis for any changes to the course.



Reading List

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<b>Course Code</b>	2SS080
<b>Revision</b>	1.2
<b>Reading List Valid from Date</b>	2023-09-01
<b>Reading List Decided Date</b>	2023-09-01

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**Literature Methods**

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