

Thomas Denk

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Statsvetenskapliga analysinriktningar (7,5 hp)

Organization of the course

This course is organized as a series of combined lectures and seminars with mandatory attendance. Each meeting is three hours long, starting with an introductory lecture the first hour and then taking the form of a seminar where key-questions are discussed of great relevance to the examination task (see below), but all participants are of course welcome to raise other relevant questions as well. This requires that we are well-prepared for each meeting in terms of having read parts of the literature and reflected on it in relation to the examination questions. These meetings are intended to work as preparations for the examination, which is an individual written assignment. It should be handed in at the end of the course and is presented below.

Schedule

- Tuesday 28 Augusti, kl. 14.15 -17.00. Course introduction: Political science and its sub-disciplines Literature: Goodin and all the books. Lärare: Jan Olsson
- Tuesday 1 September, kl. 10.15-13.00. Comparative analysis and political cultures Literature: Almond & Powell 1966; Easton 1957; Munck 2007; Almond & Verba. Lärare: Thomas Denk
- Tuesday 5 Septmeber, kl. 13.15-16.00. Behavioralism and rational choice. Literature: Mintz et al 2021; Merriam 1921; Dahl 1961; and Riker & Ordeshook 1968. Lärare: Thomas
- Tuesday 11 September, kl. 13.15-16.00. Power analysis. Literature: Lukes. **OBS** ev. artikel. Lärare: Thomas Denk
- Tuesday 18 September, kl. 13.15-16.00. Institutional theory. Literature: Peters 2019; March & Olsen 1984; Olsson 2020; Schmidt 2010; Bacchi & Rönnblom 2014. Lärare: Jan Olsson
- Tuesday 25 September, kl. 13.15-16.00. Discursive analysis between social constructivism and poststructuralism. Literature: Bacchi & Goodwin 2016; Bacchi & Rönnblom 2014; Butler 1994; Schmidt 2010. Någon mer artikel på detta tema i politisk teori och IP. Lärare: Jan Olsson
- Friday 29 September: Delivery of assignment kl. 16.00: jan.olsson@oru.se

Examination:

The course is examined through an examination consisting of the components listed below.

- Mandatory attendance at seminars.

- Examination in the form of an individual written assignment where the doctoral student presents and compares different analytical approaches in political science.

The individual assignment

- What epistemological and ontological assumptions (explicit/implicit) are of central importance for the different approaches?
- How are the analytical approaches used as guides for theoretical and empirical inquiry?
- Do the approaches have a set of well-established research problems? Which are the classical ones and are there problems at the margin, maybe even excluded?
- What are the methodological traditions and strategies of the analytical approaches?
- Choose one research problem from the teachers' list and discuss how different analytical perspectives can be valuable in making sense of the problem and in formulating a research design.

Your analysis should be summarized in form of a written essay, about 15-20 pages, with a reference system. Answer the questions above by doing a systematic comparative analysis of the approaches. Argue and exemplify in relation to the literature. To pass you need to cover all the literature listed below.

Course readings:

Books:

Bacchi, C. & Goodwin, S. (2016), *Poststructural Policy Analysis. A Guide to Practice*. London/New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 121 pages.

Lukes, S. (2021), *Power. A Radical View*. Third edition. New York: Palgrave. 256 pages.

Mintz, A., Valentino, N. A., & Wayne, C. (2021). *Beyond Rationality: Behavioral Political Science in the 21st Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 294 pages.

Peters, G (2019), *Institutional Theory in Political Science. The New Institutionalism*. New York: Continuum. Third edition. 185 pages.

Articles and book chapters:

- Almond, G.A. & Powell, B.G. (1966): An Overview. I Almond, G.A. & Powell, B.G.: *Comparative Politics: A Developmental Approach*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company (pp.16-41).
- Bacchi, C. & Rönblom, M. (2014): Feminist Discursive Institutionalism—A Poststructural Alternative, *NORA - Nordic Journal of Feminist and Gender Research*, 22:3, 170-186
- Butler, J. (1994): Contingent foundations: Feminism and the question of 'postmodernism'. I Seidman, S. (ed) (1994), *The Postmodern Turn. New Perspectives on Social Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 153-170
- Dahl, R. A. (1961): The Behavioral Approach in Political Science: Epitaph for a Monument to a Successful Protest. *The American Political Science Review* 55 (4): 763-772.
- Easton, D. (1957): An Approach to the Analysis of Political Systems. *World Politics* 9(3): 383-400.
- Goodin, R. E. (2011): 'The State of the Discipline, the Discipline of the State', in Goodin, R. E. (ed), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Science*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 54 pages
- Merriam, C. E. (1921): The Present State of the Study of Politics. *The American Political Science Review* 15 (2): 173-185.
- March, J. G. & Olsen, J. P. (1984): The New Institutionalism: Organizational Factors in Political Life." *American Political Science Review* 78 (September): 3 (5), 734-49.
- Munck, G.L. (2007): The Past and Presents of Comparative Politics. I Munck, G. L & Snyder, R. (2007): *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press (s. 32-62).
- Olsson, J. (2020): Institutionalism and Public Administration. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia, Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Riker, W. H. & Ordeshook, P. C. (1968): A Theory of the Calculus of Voting. *The American Political Science Review* Vol. 62, No. 1, pp. 25-42.
- Schmidt, V. (2010): Taking ideas and discourse seriously: Explaining change through discursive institutionalism as the fourth "new institutionalism", *European Political Science Review*, 2(1), pp. 1-25.