

## **Analytical Approaches to Political Science, 7,5 credits**

### *Statsvetenskapliga analysinriktningar, 7,5 hp*

<b>Course Code/Codes</b>	15SK072
<b>Subject Area</b>	Political science
<b>School/equivalent</b>	School of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences
<b>Valid from</b>	Autumn 2019
<b>Approved</b>	2015-12-22
<b>Revised</b>	2019-02-26
<b>Approved by</b>	
<b>Translation to English, date and signature</b>	2019-02-26 jnon

## **1 Course content**

The course gives an overview of political science as a scientific subject area by presenting its different sub-disciplines and analytical approaches. The course focuses in particular on analytical approaches such as behaviouralism, rational choice, institutional theories, power analyses, and discourse analytical approaches. The course also addresses the application of political science research as well as debates about the relevance of the subject for the surrounding society.

## **2 Outcomes**

### **2.1 The course in relation to the doctoral programme**

The course shall primarily refer to the following intended learning outcomes for third-cycle courses and study programmes as described in the Higher Education Ordinance, i.e. the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field (part of outcome 1)
- advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field (part of outcome 1)

#### *Competence and skills*

- the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis (part of outcome 3)
- the capacity to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically (part of outcome 3)
- the ability to identify the need for further knowledge (outcome 7)

#### *Judgement and approach*

- intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude (part of outcome 9)
- the ability to make assessments of research ethics (part of outcome 9)

- specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used (outcome 10)

The intended learning outcomes are listed in the same order as in the general syllabus for the programme.

## 2.2 Intended course learning outcomes

To obtain a passing grade, the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

- knowledge of political science as a scientific subject area by being well acquainted with the sub-disciplines and analytical approaches of political science as well as being familiar with central scholar debates within the subject concerning alternative theoretical traditions and approaches, and
- ability to reflect over the strengths and weaknesses of political science when it comes to social and political relevance and to have insights on the relevance debate within the subject.

## 3 Reading list and other teaching material

The following course readings and teaching material will be used on the course:

### **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. & Rönnblom, 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.

## **4 Teaching formats**

Teaching on the course takes the following format:

- Self-studies,
- lectures,
- literature seminars and
- seminars where the texts are presented and discussed

## **5 Examination**

The course is assessed through an examination consisting of the components listed below. The individual components are not graded separately but together they provide the basis for assessment and grading.

- Mandatory attendance at seminars.
- Examination in the form of an individual written assignment where the doctoral student presents and compares different political science analysis directions in the course literature with regard to ontological and epistemological assumptions, choice of research problems and study objects, as well as methodological assumptions and procedures. The assignment should also deal with the sub-research's scientific research and the importance of subjects for social development.

*For examinations consisting of several examination components, the following applies:* If during the course it is concluded that a doctoral student is unable to complete a certain examination component, the examiner may set a substitute assignment provided that circumstances do not reasonably allow for the course component to be completed at a later date during the run of the course.

## **6 Grades**

Examinations on third-cycle courses and study programmes are to be assessed according to a two-grade scale with either of the grades ‘fail’ or ‘pass’ (local regulations).

The grade shall be determined by a teacher specifically nominated by the higher education institution (the examiner) (Higher Education Ordinance).

To obtain a passing grade on examinations included in the course, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the intended course learning outcomes as described in section 2.2. Alternatively, if the course consists of multiple examinations generating credit, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the outcomes that the examination in question refers to in accordance with section 5.

A student who has failed an examination is entitled to a retake.

If an examination consists of several examination components, and a student fails an examination component, the examiner may, as an alternative to a retake, set a make-up assignment with regard to the examination component in question.

A doctoral student who has failed an examination twice for a specific course or course element is entitled, upon his/her request, to have another examiner appointed to determine the grade.

## **7 Admission to the course**

### **7.1 Admission requirements**

To gain access to the course and complete the examinations included in the course, the applicant must be admitted to a doctoral programme at Örebro University.

### **7.2 Selection**

Selection between applicants who have been admitted to doctoral programmes at Örebro University and who otherwise meet the admission requirements as listed above is made according to the following order of precedence:

Priority is given to doctoral students admitted to the subject of Political science at Örebro University. Secondly, doctoral students admitted to other subjects at Örebro University may participate. Subject to availability doctoral students from other universities may participate.

If no other selection criteria are specified in this section, priority shall be given to applicants with a lower number of course credits left before the award of their degree over applicants with a higher number of remaining course credits. Should two or more students have equal number of credits, selection will be done through the drawing of lots. This also applies within any selection groups listed unless otherwise stated.

### **7.3 Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University**

Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University may be given access to the course on the grounds of provisions for and/or agreements regarding contracted courses, joint degrees, national graduate schools or cooperation in other respects with other universities.

Any decisions on what such other applicants may be given access to the course are made separately and on the basis of the provisions and/or agreements that occasion the student to apply for the course.

For participation in the course in other respects, the same provisions shall apply as for doctoral students admitted to Örebro University.

## **8 Transfer of credits for courses, study programmes and other experience**

Provisions on the transfer of credits can be found in the Higher Education Ordinance and on the university's webpage.

## **9 Other information**

This course is given in English

### **Transitional provisions**

No transitional provisions apply.