

Opprette nytt emne / Create new course

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Navn / Name *

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Emneansvarlige / Course convenors *

Hallvard Sandven

Emnenavn / Course name *

Political Concepts

Faggruppe / Subfield group *

PT - Politisk teori

Emnenivå / Course level *

4000

Kort om emne / Course content *

This course aims to equip students to engage in conceptual analysis for the study of politics. It will use the tools of analytical philosophy and positive political theory to motivate and assess definitional questions such as: “What is power, and who has it?”, “What is a social structure, and can structures explain behaviour?”, and “Who is free in the social world, and why?” The course will also investigate the extent to which we can make sense of ascriptions of agency (e.g. “the European Union aims to X”) and of responsibility (e.g. “Philip Morris is blameworthy for Y”) to groups of individuals. Finally, the course considers how competing conceptions of key concepts such as democracy, social norms, and freedom shape empirical research, including the research questions asked and the interpretation of empirical findings.

Hva lærer du / Learning outcome *

Knowledge

Upon completing the course, students are expected to be able to:

- Explain major approaches to conceptual analysis.
- Explain the significance of conceptual choices for empirical modes of inquiry.
- Describe and compare leading theories of freedom, social norms, power, social structures, democracy, and group agency.

Skills

Upon completing the course, students are expected to be able to:

- Identify differences in analysis that stem from divergent conceptual choices and their underlying commitments in the philosophy of science.
- Critically assess the costs and benefits of competing definitions of key concepts.
- Build and defend theoretical arguments for particular conceptions of key concepts.
- Assess the implications of abstract conceptual debates for the empirical study of politics.

General competence:

Upon completing the course, students are expected to be able to:

- Synthesise, explain, and assess theoretical literature.
- Engage in academic dialogue and provide reasoned feedback on others’ arguments.
- Identify and analyse foundational conceptual, ontological, and methodological disagreements in political and academic disputes.

Obligatorisk aktivitet / Mandatory activity *

Students must submit three discussion questions before at least two sessions and introduce and motivate those questions during the relevant sessions.

Eksamensform / Form of examination *

Annet / Other

Hvilke hjelpemidler? / Which examination support material? *

Informasjon til studenter om KI verktøy /Information for student about AI tools: https://www.uio.no/studier/ressurser/ki_student.html

Ingen hjelpemidler er tillatt. / No aids are allowed.

Annet / Other *

Written examination (4 hours).

Eksamensspråk / Language of examination *

Eksamensoppgaven er på engelsk. Du kan svare på norsk, svensk, dansk eller engelsk.

Karakterskala / Grading scale *

[Grading and grading scales - University of Oslo \(uio.no\)](#)

Karakterskala fra A til F, F er stryk / Letter grades A-F, F is fail.

Overlapper emnet med andre emner ved instituttet? / Is there a overlap between this course and other courses at the department? *

Nei

Hva er anbefalte forkunnskaper? / What is the recommended previous knowledge?

BA in Political Science.

Hvorfor er det behov for dette emnet? /Why is there a need for this course?

This course is needed to provide students with tools for conceptual analysis in political science. It caters to students primarily interested in political theory by enabling them to analyse, assess, and defend competing conceptions of central political concepts. It also caters to students writing empirical master’s theses by helping them understand how conceptual choices shape research questions and the interpretation of empirical findings.

Planlegging av ressursbruk (til ledelse og administrasjon)

Når er det planlagt at emnet skal gå for første gang? When is planned for the this course to be taught for the first time?

NB!
Du er ansvarlig for å gi beskjed til omådelærer om når emnet skal gå.
You are responsible for informing the "områdelærer" when the course will be taught.

V27

Hvem skal undervise i emnet? Who will teach this course? *

Underspørsmål:
Har du/de andre underviserne ledig kapasitet?
Vil all undervisning bli dekket av interne ansatte eller ønsker du hente inn ekstern underviser?
Sub-questions:
Do you/ the other teachers have available capacity?
Will all teaching be covered by internal staff, or do you want to bring in external teachers?

Hallvard Sandven (8 sessions)
Daniel Goldstein (2 sessions)

Both have capacity.

Hvem kan sensurere dette emnet? Who can grade in this course?

Underspørsmål:
Ordinær sensur: Kan sensuren dekkes av interne sensorer?
Klagesensur: Kjenner du til fagpersoner som kan være eksterne sensorer på dette emnet?
Sub-questions:
Can the grading be covered by internal graders?
Do you know of who experts who could be external graders for this course?

Hallvard Sandven
Robert Huseby
Jonathan Kuyper
Raino Malnes

External examiners:
Sebastian Conte

Skal emner nedlegges pga. opprettingen av dette emnet? / Will courses be discontinued due to the establishment of this new course?

No.

Annen viktig informasjon om emnet/ Other important information about course

Ikke besvart