The Nuts and Bolts of Writing a Swedish Political Science Dissertation/Avhandlingsbyggarkurs

PhD course held at Stockholm University, Dept. of Political Science, spring 2015, 7.5 ECT

Starts Tuesday 28th of April; ends Friday 12th of June

Objectives

PhD students should:

- get an overview of Swedish dissertations in different fields of political science, and how they are composed as either monographs or as compilation theses.
- get an understanding of what is required of a dissertation in political science.
- learn how to combine the necessary parts of a dissertation into a readable book of good academic quality.
- improve their skills in the genre of academic writing within the social sciences.
- improve their skills as constructive discussants/opponents.

Course Language

The discussions will be held in Swedish or English, depending on the language skills of the participants. All participants might be expected to read theses in both English and Swedish.

Format of the Course

The course includes a number of seminars. Each seminar starts with a presentation of a Swedish political science dissertation, usually by the person who acted as the opponent at the thesis defense. The course participants are expected to have read the thesis and come prepared to discuss different aspects of it. The first seminar is scheduled for the 28th of April between 10:00 and 12:00. It will be followed by five to six more seminars, usually on Tuesdays and Fridays, during May. At a final seminar on the 12th of June participants’ discuss and get feedback on a longer written assignment.
Participants
This course is first and foremost meant for PhD students who have chosen their research topic, started writing and started the work of getting a book together. The course is meant for authors of both monographs and compilation theses.

Schedule
TBA

Course Readings
Five to seven political science dissertations combined with some reference literature regarding thesis writing. Thus, more literature will be added to the list below.


Examination
Course requirements include:
1. Attendance at the seminars.
2. The preparation of shorter assignments for each seminar and a longer paper towards the end of the course.

Registration
Please register by sending an e-mail to ulf.morkenstam@statsvet.su.se no later than April 17.
The teaching staff

- **Kristina Boréus** is professor in political science at Stockholm University and former Director of the PhD-program in political science. She has taught several Master’s and PhD courses on research design and is an experienced supervisor of PhD students.

- **Ulf Mörkenstam** is associate professor in political science at Stockholm University and former Director of the PhD-program in political science. He has taught several PhD courses on research problems in political science and is an experienced supervisor of PhD students.

Apart from Kristina and Ulf, who are the main teachers, a number of political scientists who have acted as opponents at dissertation defenses will be invited to lead the seminars:

- **Jonas Hinnfors**, professor in political science, Gothenburg University
- **Eva Erman**, professor in political science, Stockholm University
- **Jonas Tallberg**, professor in political science, Stockholm University