



# Syllabus

## Doctoral study subject

Political Science

## Course name (Supply the course name both in Swedish and in English!)

What is the Problem Represented to be? Critical Policy Analysis in Theory and Practice

## Credit points

7,5

## Degree Level

Doctor

## Language of Instruction

English

## Target group and prerequisites

The target group for the course is PhD-students in general and the course is open to students from all disciplines. However, it is assumed that participants are acquainted with poststructuralist thought before the course.

## Aims

After completing the course the doctoral student should be able to

- Explain central concepts and debates connected to critical policy analysis and the WPR framework.
- Explain and assess the epistemological implications of using the WPR framework in analysis.
- Apply and report the results from analytical work using the WPR framework.
- Critically assess scholarly work from a critical policy analysis perspective.

## Course Content

The focus of this course is to introduce and deepen the understanding of employing a critical policy analysis perspective in research. After an introductory overview of critical policy analysis, the course focuses on the What's the Problem Represented to be? (WPR) framework as introduced by Carol Bacchi. The course will cover questions of epistemological underpinnings, relevance, problematization, design, data collection, analytical strategies, "reflexivity" ("self"-problematization) and writing/reporting when applying the WPR framework in practice. The course will mix readings and reflection with practical work and exercises.

The course has three phases:

1 Preparations - The first phase is conducted through online learning modules, where readings, online discussions and preparatory writing for the physical meeting takes place.

2. Physical meeting - The second phase consists of a three-day meet-up with lectures, presentations and seminars.

3. Writing - In the last phase, the participants write a paper where the content of the course is applied.

### **Reading List**

See separate document.

### **Examination**

Examination consists of participation in all three phases of the course. In the online modules reflective texts must be written based on the assigned literature and active participation in on-line discussions are required. In the physical meeting, active participation and a mandatory presentation are required. After the meeting a longer (about 5000 words) course paper must be submitted.

### **Quality Assurance (Static text)**

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course. The results will be used as a basis when developing and planning future courses.

### **Additional Information (Add information as needed!)**