



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Gender Studies

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 8 April 2014, and is valid from the Autumn semester of 2014 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: GVGA30

Gender Studies I, 30.0 ECTS Credits

(Genusvetenskap I, 30.0 Swedish credit points)

Degree Level: Bachelor

Progressive Specialisation: G1N (First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements)

Language of Instruction

Swedish

Prerequisites

General admission requirements

Major Field of Study

GEU (Gender Studies)

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- give an account of the basic issues, perspectives and theories of gender study,
- give examples of how women's and men's circumstances are portrayed in historical and global perspectives,
- give an account of the importance of intersectionality as a concept in gender study contexts.

Competence and skills

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- explain the basic issues and perspectives of gender study,
- apply the basic issues and perspectives of gender study,
- independently carry out a limited academic study.

Judgement and approach

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- critically review and discuss theories and concepts in gender studies
- critically discuss aspects of gender research and the role of gender studies in society.

Content and Form of Instruction

The course provides a basic introduction to the field of feminist and gender studies with emphasis on different forms of power dimensions. Basic concepts and theories are introduced along with the theory of science perspectives, followed by examples of areas in which gender is constructed. Global, organisational and individual consequences are treated.

The course comprises four modules:

Module I Introduction (7.5 ECTS cr)

Basic concepts and theories in the feminist and gender studies field are presented with an emphasis on power relations between the sexes. The interplay sex/gender and other power dimensions such as class, ethnicity, sexual disposition, age and religion are introduced and discussed. Theory of science is discussed from a feminist perspective.

Module II (In)Equality, welfare and globalisation (7.5 ECTS cr)

The module deals with different ways of organising welfare in various countries and the consequences for women's and men's circumstances and lives over time. Gender issues related to violence and war, for instance, are discussed from a global and postcolonial perspective and based on current cases.

Module III Organisation, resistance and change (7.5 ECTS cr)

The importance of gender in relation to the structure, culture, leadership and processes of change in the organisation is problematized. The organisation of work is particularly emphasised. Critical perspectives on equality and resistance are introduced and discussed. The course exemplifies how basic gender theory can be used for the purpose of change.

Module IV Body, culture and ideology (7.5 ECTS cr)

The course deals with cultural constructions and doing gender, body and sexuality in contemporary and historical perspectives. Feminist perspectives on materiality, biology and biological research are discussed. The module problematises the way gender is expressed in and influences language and other forms of expression in everyday practices as well as ideological currents.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment of all modules is based on a take-home exam and hand-in assignments. Take-home exams are individual and discussed at a mandatory seminar where students present their knowledge orally. Hand-in assignments are individual or in groups.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course. The grade of Distinction is awarded to students who have earned this grade for at least 22.5 of the 30 ECTS course credits.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course assessment is based on student views and experiences as reported in written course evaluations and/or group discussions. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of the measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional Information

Students who enrolled before 1 July 2007 will complete their studies in accordance with the requirements of the earlier admission. Upon completion students may request degree and course certificates to be issued under the current ordinance if they meet its requirements.

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor's and Master's levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

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