Reg No: HS 2014/30

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: GVGB30
Gender Studies II, 30.0 ECTS Credits
(Genusvetenskap II, 30.0 Swedish credit points)
Degree Level: Bachelor
Progressive Specialisation: G1F (First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements)

Language of Instruction
Swedish

Prerequisites
Gender Studies 1-30 ECTS cr or equivalent

Major Field of Study
GEU (Gender Studies)

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and understanding
Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:
- outline the history of gender theory,
- identify similarities and differences between various theoretical perspectives,
- outline the basics of the research process,
- outline the central aspects of the theoretical and methodological perspectives of research.

Competence and skills
Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:
- communicate the most important theories in the field of gender studies,
- apply chosen gender theories to a research study,
- apply quantitative and qualitative methods in a simple empirical study,
- independently plan, carry out and document a research project,
- identify and describe their own needs of information for their project,
- formulate search questions and use relevant search tools (the web, databases, catalogues).

Judgement and approach
Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:
- independently analyse, discuss and criticise gender theories,
- critically review and analyse the information yielded, sources and their own process of information retrieval,
- critically reflect on and discuss the consequences of of different theoretical and methodological perspectives in the research process.

Content and Form of Instruction

The course centres on the conceptual and theoretical foundation of feminist and gender studies. Different theoretical approaches and their place in a social science context are treated as are feminist theory, methodology and practical research methods. The first three modules prepare for a concluding individual project.

Module I: Gender theories 7.5 ECTS cr
Central texts are studied and insights into explanatory models in feminist theory and gender studies are provided. Differences and common denominators in different theoretical traditions are treated in lectures and seminars.

Module II: Knowledge production and power analysis 7.5 ECTS cr
Scientific knowledge production is discussed and problematised. Individual responsibility for knowledge production is emphasised. Students are responsible for defining, processing and solving reality-related gender problems using problem-based learning methods. Critical and reflected approaches to different methods and theories are introduced. The importance of power-relations in research knowledge production and its application is discussed.

Module III: Research processes in gender studies 7.5 ECTS cr
The module provides basic hands-on knowledge of the research process as a whole. Empirical studies based on quantitative and qualitative research methods are treated and students apply the methodological knowledge. Content is continuously related to gender studies as a field of study and research, and it is organised around different methods of data selection, data and the academic essay and writing process.

Module IV: Essay project 7.5 ECTS cr
Students apply their previously acquired knowledge to an independent essay project with a gender perspective. There are also seminars for essay presentation and discussion.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment of modules 1-3 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. Module 3 is assessed on the basis of an independent degree project presented and discussed at a mandatory seminar and on student performance as peer reviewer.

Grades

One of the grades Fail (U), Pass (G), or Distinction (VG) 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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