



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Interculture

Syllabus

Political culture and interculturality: Views from Northern Europe

Course Code: IKGEU1

Course Title: Political culture and interculturality: Views from Northern Europe

Politisk kultur och interkulturalitet: perspektiv från norra Europa

Credits: 6

Degree Level: Undergraduate level

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

Major Field of Study:

INT (Intercultural Studies)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2024-09-05, and is valid from the Spring semester 2025 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

General admission requirements

Learning Outcomes

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

1. give an account of various scientific approaches to Nordic political culture,
2. give an account of contemporary intercultural policy research in Nordic contexts,
3. use intercultural methods in a comparative approach to Nordic political culture, and
4. critically reflect upon Nordic exceptionalism.

Content

The course introduces Nordic political culture and its history, and how Nordic welfare models are transferred to and reinterpreted in other parts of the world. Nordic societal models are portrayed as exceptional in comparative value studies, such as the World Values Survey. The course evaluates such presumed exceptionalism and the quantitative methods used to define, assess, and compare cultural values. Through an intercultural approach inspired by critical cultural theory, and by placing Nordic political culture in an international and historical context, students are offered the opportunity to reflect on welfare and "welfare," multiculturalism and segregation, trust and austerity, as well as equality and feminism.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on individual oral and written assignments.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

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 evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

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