



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Human Geography

## Syllabus

### Urban Rural Interplay

<b>Course Code:</b>	KGA101
<b>Course Title:</b>	Urban Rural Interplay <i>Stad och land i samspel</i>
<b>Credits:</b>	7.5
<b>Degree Level:</b>	Master's level
<b>Progressive Specialisation:</b>	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

**Major Field of Study:**  
KGA (Human Geography)

#### Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2026-02-17, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2026 at Karlstad University.

#### Prerequisites

A bachelor-level degree of at least 180 credits, including a minimum of 90 credits with progressive specialisation in the main field of Human Geography or equivalent. In addition, upper secondary level English 6 or English level 2. An equivalence assessment can be made.

#### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

1. give an account of how societal transformation processes affect the relationship between urban and rural spaces,
2. give an account of and analyse changes in geographical structures as a result of demographic restructuring,
3. critically reflect upon how notions of urban and rural spaces are mutually constitutive, and
4. critically analyse planning and development ideas relating to smart cities and smart villages, and the consequences of these ideas.

#### Content

The course is based on a contemporary context characterised by globalisation, technological development, and demographic shifts that influence how the rural and the urban are perceived and transformed. These concepts highlight how population geography is reshaped through migration, mobility, and changing lifestyle choices, which in turn affect notions of both the city and the countryside. Rather than a strict dichotomy, an urban-rural continuum emerges, with fluid boundaries and relationships of mutual dependence.

Particular emphasis is placed on the rise of concepts such as smart cities and smart villages, which not only represent technological innovations but also express new ways of thinking about sustainability, development, and inclusion in both urban and rural contexts.

#### Reading List

See separate document.

#### Examination

All learning outcomes are assessed individually through seminar participation, individual written assignments, and written group assignments. Submissions for assessment must clearly indicate individual contributions.

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 VG (Pass with Distinction), G (Pass), or U (Fail) 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.