



Faculty of Arts and Social Science  
Human Geography

# Syllabus

## Local and regional development

<b>Course Code:</b>	KGA502
<b>Course Title:</b>	Local and regional development <i>Lokal och regional utveckling</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 Science 2016-02-24, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2016 at Karlstad University.

### Prerequisites

Special requirements: Eligibility for courses at Master's level. Upper secondary level Swedish B/Swedish 2 B. General Bachelor's degree of 180 ECTS cr with a Major in Human Geography, Tourism Studies, Environmental Science, History, Social Care Science, Social Work, Sociology, Political Science, or equivalent.

Alternatively, Professional Bachelor's degree in GIS-engineering or social work/care of at least 180 ECTS cr including a degree project 15 ECTS cr.

Non-programme students

First-cycle courses in social and political science totalling at least 120 ECTS, of which 90 ECTS cr including a degree thesis of 15 ECTS cr in one of the following subjects: History, Human Geography, Social Work, Social Care, Sociology, Political Science, Tourism or Environmental Science with an emphasis on social science, or a degree in engineering in GIS with an emphasis on social science.

### Learning Outcomes

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

- identify and discuss what local and regional development entails,
- critically review central concepts in the field of local and regional development,
- explain and relate different theories on societal processes linked to an empirical example of local and regional development,
- identify, give an account of and critically analyse different regional development processes and policy measures,
- evaluate ethical issues and problematise different issues relating to regional development processes, and
- describe, apply and critically assess comparative studies and case studies in relation to regional

development processes.

### **Content**

The focus is on local and regional development processes in Sweden and Europe. An important aspect is the way complex time-space networks in a globalised world create a multitude of economic enterprises, something which contributes to the need of strategic policy and different policy instruments for local and regional development. How the interaction of actors affect local and regional development is clarified in various ways, for instance, in relation to power and gender. A critical discussion of the theory and practice of societal planning is included.

The role of EU in local and regional development is analysed and critically reviewed. The comparative method and case studies are introduced and applied to studies and analyses of regional development processes.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, individual study, seminars and an excursion, subject to funding. Students pay some of the costs in connection with the excursion.

### **Reading List**

See separate document.

### **Examination**

Assessment is based on individual and group hand-in assignments and seminar participation.

### **Grades**

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