



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Economics

Syllabus

Economics of Human Sexuality

Course Code:	NEGB17
Course Title:	Economics of Human Sexuality <i>Genus och rationalitet</i>
Credits:	7.5
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G1F)

Major Field of Study:

GEU (Gender Studies)
NAA (Economics)
SKA (Political Science)
SOA (Sociology)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2022-12-13, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2023 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

At least 30 ECTS credits completed in one of the following subjects: Economics, Sociology, Political Science, Working Life Science, Business Administration, or Gender Studies, and upper secondary level English 6, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

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

1. give an account of and discuss key ideas of how individuals of different genders behave based on the theory of rational choice,
2. give an account of and discuss the main empirical regularities of how individuals of different genders behave, and

3. analyse and discuss how different regulatory interventions influence the behaviour of individuals of different genders.

Content

This course is based on a view of individuals of different genders as (mainly) rational utility maximisers. This means that individuals of different genders desire as much well-being for themselves as possible, and choose the best ways of reaching that goal. It is important to note that this behaviour does not exclude altruism, since it is possible to rejoice in the welfare of others. In Economics and Sociobiology, and to a varying extent in other social sciences, there are fruitful trends based on this perspective on human behaviour. However, the course does not require prior knowledge of Social Science or Sociobiology.

The view of individuals of different genders as rational utility maximisers has yielded productive explanations for widely divergent phenomena. Examples of explanations include family formation (why people get married and why various patterns of how they do so emerge, as well as more unconventional forms of sexual relationships such as polygyny, polyandry, and prostitution); discrimination and the conditions required for it to occur and recur; fertility decisions and the division of labour in households; and the significance of legislation (against discrimination, pornography, divorce, and so on, with content that potentially affects individuals of different genders differently). The course consists of a series of lectures on these themes.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on a written exam.

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.