



Faculty of Arts and Social Science  
Sociology

## Syllabus

### Independent specialisation

<b>Course Code:</b>	SOG100
<b>Course Title:</b>	Independent specialisation <i>Självständig fördjupning</i>
<b>Credits:</b>	30
<b>Degree Level:</b>	Undergraduate level
<b>Progressive Specialisation:</b>	First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G2F)

**Major Field of Study:**  
SOA (Sociology)

#### Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Science 2014-08-20, and is valid from the Spring semester 2015 at Karlstad University.

#### Prerequisites

The courses SOGA50 Social Organising, Public Sociology and Research Practice 30 ECTS cr, SOGA60 The Individual in Society 30 ECTS cr, SOGA70 Social Change 30 ECTS cr and SOGA80 Producing Knowledge of Complex Social Processes 30 ECTS cr

#### Learning Outcomes

Module 1 After Industrialism: Theories on Social Change 7.5 ECTS cr

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

- give an account of different social analysis and social theory perspectives on social change and point to similarities and differences,
- identify sociological areas of study related to social change and apply social analysis perspectives to one of these.
- identify the analytical consequences of the different perspectives.

Module 2 Data Analysis and Methods Evaluation 7.5 ECTS cr

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

- summarise and explain empirical sociological research results and critically assess the methodology used,
- evaluate and critically review sociological methods and perspectives developed, debated and used in current research.

Module 3 Degree Project 15 ECTS cr

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

- independently demarcate, design and author an academic essay with relevance to social analysis, sociological theory, problems and more complex applications of quantitative and qualitative methods,

- independently perform as reviewer and defend their own work in regard to research ethical considerations,
- give an account of the consequences of ethical and methods related choices,
- present their own works and science articles in seminars.

### **Content**

The course deals with different social analysis and social theory perspectives on social change. On the basis of the critique of classic sociologists, the students acquire understanding of the tension between regarding social change as action or system driven respectively in relation to the examples of globalisation and individualisation. A deeper description of a relational perspective on the social and social change is also provided, thus inviting a discussion on the concept of society and the relevance of sociology today.

#### **Module 1 After Industrialism: Theories on Social Change**

The discussions on modern sociological theory based are deepened on the basis of the consequences of globalisation and individualisation. Debated theories and promising theories in current research are treated in depth.

#### **Module 2 Data Analysis and Methods Evaluation**

Quantitative and qualitative analysis of data is treated and modern sociological analysis methods are problematised. The quantitative analysis treated has a focus on inference and selection problems, statistical generalisation and hypothesis testing. Qualitative analysis can take various forms. The concepts and analysis procedures from data to theory of the Grounded Theory tradition is used as an example.

#### **Module 3 Degree Project 15 ECTS cr**

Students author a theoretical and/or empirically based academic essay. Students are required to defend their essay as well as to serve as peer reviewer.

Supervision is only provided for the duration of the course. Reregistered students are offered supervision if circumstances permit.

### **Reading List**

See separate document.

### **Examination**

Module 1 is assessed on the basis of individual and group take-home exams, active participation in mandatory seminars and seminar presentation of the group exam.

Module 2 is assessed on the basis of an individual take-home exam and active participation in mandatory seminars.

Module 3 is assessed on the basis of a written academic essay discussed in seminar and on performance as peer reviewer. The number of examination opportunities is limited to five.

### **Grades**

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course and its modules. The course grade Distinction is awarded to students who have earned this grade for at least 22.5 credits of the total 30 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 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**

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 course SOG100 cannot be included in the same degree programme as the course SOGC01  
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.