



Faculty of Arts and Social Science  
Sociology

# Syllabus

## Independent specialisation

**Course Code:** SOG100

**Course Title:** Independent specialisation  
*Independent specialisation*

**Credits:** 30

**Degree Level:** Undergraduate level

**Progressive Specialisation:** 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 2015-09-14, and is valid from the Spring semester 2016 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 Theories of Organising and Complexity 7.5 ECTS cr

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

- give an account of different social analysis and 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, and
- identify the analytical consequences of the different perspectives.

Module 2 Understanding and Analysis 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 the 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 delimit, 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 a peer reviewer and defend their own work in regard to research ethical considerations, and
- give an account of the consequences of choices related to ethics and methods.

## **Content**

The course deals with different social analysis and theory perspectives on social change. On the basis of the critique of classic sociologists, the students acquire understanding of the tension between approaching social change as an action- or system-driven phenomenon. Globalisation and individualisation are used as significant examples in this discussion. 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 Theories of Organising and Complexity, 7.5 ECTS cr

The discussions of modern sociological theory 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 Understanding and Analysis, 7.5 ECTS cr

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 are used as an example.

### Module 3 Degree Project 15 ECTS cr

Students author a theoretically 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 an individual take-home exam, and group preparation and oral presentation of certain assignments in mandatory seminars.

Module 2 is assessed on the basis of a written exam, 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**

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

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