



Faculty of Social and Life Sciences
Sociology
Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Social and Life Sciences on 25 August 2011, and is valid from the Spring semester of 2012 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: SOGA01

Sociology I, 30 ECTS Credits

(Sociologi I, 30 Swedish credit points)

Degree Level: Bachelor

Progressive Specialisation: G1N (First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements)

Language of Instruction

The language of instruction is mainly Swedish.

Prerequisites

General admission requirements

Major Field of Study

SOA (Sociology)

Learning Outcomes

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

- give an account of central sociological concepts, theories and problem areas
- apply central sociological concepts and theories to a problem area
- give an account of the stages and methodological choices involved in the research process
- structure an academic text

Content and Form of Instruction

The course offers students tools for developing an understanding of society and its development as well as of their own identity as members of society and of possibilities for social changes. Sociological explanations and descriptions generally address global conditions and processes, specific societies and cultures, various social sectors, and the levels of organisations, groups and individual relations.

This course emphasises in particular concepts and theories related to the individual in the social structure. The students' experiences can thus form a starting-point for sociological insights. The general concepts are exemplified through specialised examination of a limited problem area.

Instruction is in the form of lectures/classes and application exercises in groups or individually.

The course comprises four modules:

Module 1: Introduction to Sociology, 7.5 ECTS credits

The sociological way of thinking is introduced along with a survey of theoretical and empirical research and

important sociological perspectives of social problems. Social interaction in everyday life, social institutions such as family, work, education and mass communication, as well as power structures in terms of equality, injustice, gender and ethnicity are treated.

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

- identify and give an account of basic sociological concepts
- describe the main features of some central sociological perspectives and social science analysis

Module 2: Interaction in Everyday Life, 7.5 ECTS credits

The module centres on the significance of everyday interaction in terms of classical and modern theories. Special attention is paid to issues of identity, social interaction strategies and the exercise of micro power in everyday contexts.

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

- identify and give an account of key concepts and approaches in interaction/social psychology theory
- describe basic perspectives of the human being as creator of and created by different social contexts.

Module 3: The Research Process, 7.5 ECTS credits

Basic introduction is provided to the theory of science, the stages of the research process and the methodological problems involved in sociological research. The students work with problem formulation, data collection, sample principles and principles for analysing quantitative and qualitative data as well as questionnaire and interview studies.

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

- identify and describe various stages, problems and choices in the quantitative and qualitative research processes and carry out minor questionnaire and interview investigations
- give an account of and explain the nature and conditions of scientific knowledge

Module 4: Specialisation, 7.5 ECTS credits

The module centres on social processes and sociological analysis. Students study a specific and limited sociological problem and are introduced to selected sociological areas theoretically and empirically.

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

- apply relevant basic sociological concepts to a problem area
- describe different research ethical issues
- write a short essay or PM on a sociological area
- present results and analysis orally and in writing

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Modules 1 and 3 are assessed on the basis of written tests, written individual or group assignments, short papers on course content and mandatory seminar components.

Module 4 requires a written report to be discussed at a seminar.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction, Pass or Fail is awarded in the examination of the course and modules. A course grade of Distinction is awarded to students who have earned the grade of Distinction for modules totalling 22.5 ECTS 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 assessment is based on student views and experiences as reported in written course evaluations and/or group discussions. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of the 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 SOGA01 cannot be included in the same degree programme as the courses XSO429, XS0437, XSO438, and SOCA05, or the Social Sciences courses XSH410, XSH421, and XSH427.

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.

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