



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Sociology

Syllabus

Sociology I

Course Code:	SOGA01
Course Title:	Sociology I <i>Sociologi I</i>
Credits:	30
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements (G1N)

Major Field of Study:
SOA (Sociology)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2019-02-12, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2019 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

General admission requirements

Learning Outcomes

The course is divided into three modules.

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

Module 1: People and Society - Introduction to Sociology (15 ECTS cr)

- give an account of basic sociology and social psychology concepts and theories,
- reflect upon the possibilities and limitations that different social positions entail for understanding society
- apply key sociology and social psychology concepts and perspectives in basic analyses of

contemporary social phenomena,

Module 2: Investigating Society (7.5 ECTS credits)

- identify and describe different stages, problems, and methodological choices in qualitative and quantitative research processes,
- conduct simple questionnaire and interview studies,
- give an account of and explain the nature and conditions of scientific knowledge,

Module 4: Sociological Specialisation (7.5 ECTS credits)

- apply relevant basic sociological concepts to describe a problem area,
- describe different aspects of research ethics in sociology research,
- write a short essay on a sociological area,
- present results and analysis both orally and in writing.

Content

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 study of a limited problem area.

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

The course comprises three modules:

Module 1: People and Society - Introduction to Sociology (15 ECTS cr)

The sociological way of thinking is introduced along with key sociology and social psychology theories and perspectives in order to understand social interaction, organisation, and power structures. Starting out from the students' experiences, we study how people shape society and how society shapes people locally, nationally, and globally. Through practical exercises, students learn to reflect upon the importance of different social factors such as gender, age, class, and ethnicity for the living conditions of the individual and our ability or inability to grasp the society we live in as a whole. The practical exercises also provide tools for analysing contemporary phenomena such as surveillance, consumption, sustainable development, social movements, crime, and social media. The practical exercises include individual preparation for classes, observation, group projects, and written hand-in assignments.

Module 2: Investigating Society (7.5 ECTS cr)

The module offers a basic introduction 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 simple questionnaire and interview studies.

Module 3: Sociological Specialisation (7.5 ECTS cr)

The module centres on social processes and sociological analysis. Students study a relatively limited sociological problem and are introduced to selected theoretical and empirical aspects of sociology.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Module 1 is assessed on the basis of a written exam, individual written hand-in assignments, active participation in seminars, and group projects which are presented orally and in writing.

Module 2 is assessed on the basis of a written exam and hand-in assignments that are presented and discussed in mandatory seminars.

Module 3 is assessed on the basis of a written report co-written by two students. In exceptional cases, if there are sufficient supervision resources available, students who wish to write the report on their own may do so. Reports are discussed in a seminar which also requires students to critically examine the work of others.

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 course SOGA01 cannot be included in the same degree programme as the courses XSO429, XSO437, XSO438, and SOCA05, or the Social Sciences courses XSH410, XSH421, and XSH427.

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