



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Sociology

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 19 February 2014, and is valid from the Autumn semester of 2014 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: SOGA50

Social Organizing, Public Sociology and Research Practice, 30.0 ECTS Credits

(Samhällsorganisering, public sociology och forskningspraktik, 30.0 Swedish credit points)

Degree Level: Bachelor

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

Language of Instruction

Swedish

Prerequisites

General admission requirements plus either

- field-specific eligibility A5 (upper secondary school level Mathematics 2a or 2b or 2c, Civics 1b or 1a1 + 1a2),
- or
- field-specific eligibility 5 (upper secondary school level Mathematics B, Civics A).

Major Field of Study

SOA (Sociology)

Learning Outcomes

Module 1: The Basics of Sociology, 7.5 ECTS cr

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

- identify and give an account of basic sociological concepts,
- describe the main features of central sociological perspectives on social organisation,
- identify and formulate the content of sociological issues that address social change.

Module 2: Organisation, 7.5 ECTS cr

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

- give an account of how the concept of organisation is used in the social sciences,
- give an account of how theories are used in the social sciences,
- identify actorship in organisation processes, especially in empirical cases,
- give an account of how Swedish organisations and institutions have been organised historically and presently.

Module 3: Paths to Knowledge, 7.5 ECTS cr

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

- give an account of the research process and of the differences between quantitative and qualitative research,
- describe the basic aspects of theory of science and ethics in the research process,
- search and assess knowledge,
- problematise the relation between knowledge and power (in academia).

Module 4: Public Sociology, Research Environment and Practice, 7.5 ECTS cr

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

- give an account of the major features of public sociology and how it differs from other sociological approaches,
- give an account of different types of knowledge and sociological knowledge issues,
- give an account of some dimensions and consequences of the relation between research, practice and knowledge formation,
- compile and reflect on different actors' knowledge and problem formulations on a phenomenon,
- reflect on the role of the researcher in knowledge formation.

Content and Form of Instruction

The course comprises four modules.

Module 1: The Basics of Sociology, 7.5 ECTS cr

The module provides insights into the sociological, including the sociopsychological, way of thinking and an outline of theoretical and empirical research, as well as an introduction to the sociological approach to society and societal problems. Social interplay in daily life, social institutions such as family, work, education and mass communication, is treated. Also treated are issues of inequality, injustice, gender and ethnicity in terms of power structures.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, group work and seminars.

Module 2: Organisation, 7.5 ECTS cr

The aim of the module is that students acquire a basic understanding of the organisation concept in the social sciences. The emphasis is on organising as ongoing formal and informal processes and on different forms of actorship. Complex processes are illustrated through empirical cases. The module also includes components dealing with the emergence of Swedish organisations and institutions and their present organising.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, group work and seminars. An important element is that students work with theories to develop their critical thinking.

Module 3: Paths to Knowledge, 7.5 ECTS cr

The module outlines theory of science, the stages of the research process and the methodological problems associated with sociological and sociopsychological studies. The differences between qualitative and quantitative methods and the ethical issues involved in research are treated. The emphasis is on problematising the basic conditions of knowledge formation (organising knowledge), who 'owns' knowledge in terms of class, ethnicity and gender in an intra-disciplinary perspective. Students also develop tools and skills to retrieve and process information through practical exercises which include ethical considerations.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, group work and seminars.

Module 4: Public Sociology, Research Environment and Practice, 7.5 ECTS cr

Different types of sociological knowledge formation are treated with an emphasis on public sociology in relation to other sociological theories and their relevance in relation to society and power. Students are expected to seek knowledge of a certain phenomenon from practitioners as well as researchers.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, applications, seminars, research-related laboratory work, interviews with researchers and external actors.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on individual exams or take-home exams, presentation of individual or group assignments, laboratory work and seminars.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course. Assessment criteria for the grade Distinction are specified in the study guide.

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

Required course for the Social Analysis and Organising programme.

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