



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Sociology

Syllabus

The Individual in Society

Course Code:	SOGA60
Course Title:	The Individual in Society <i>Indviden och samhället</i>
Credits:	30
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G1F)

Major Field of Study:
SOA (Sociology)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2016-09-14, and is valid from the Spring semester 2017 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

The course SOGA50, Social Organizing, Public Sociology and Research Practice, 30 ECTS cr (at least 7.5 ECTS cr completed), or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

Module 1: What is Social Psychology?, 7.5 ECTS cr

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

- describe the importance of the socialisation process for the construction of identity,
- identify and give an account of basic concepts, theoretical approaches and central problem areas, and
- give an account of how social psychology and societal analysis can be related.

Module 2: Organising, Categorising and Resistance, 7.5 ECTS cr

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

- give an account of how sociologically relevant theorists have discussed the relations between organising, categorising and resistance,
- discuss how different theories treat concepts such as the individual, society and the collective with special emphasis on organising, categorising and resistance,
- compare the result of at least two different theoretical applications to a given case of organised resistance.

Module 3: The Scientific Approach, 7.5 ECTS cr

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

- give an account of theory of science perspectives,
- apply basic knowledge of quantitative and qualitative methods,
- formulate a research problem and draw up an investigation design,

- design an interview guide and a questionnaire
- problematise the ethical aspects of a data collection.

Module 4: Project in Social Analysis: Organizing, 7.5 ECTS cr

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

- formulate aim and research questions in a chosen problem area,
- choose and use adequate methods for collecting data,
- process and conduct a minor analysis of their empirical data in relation to previous research and theories on organizing,
- write a research paper on the basis of their empirical studies,
- critically review and discuss research studies.

Content

The course comprises four modules.

Module 1: Social Interaction and Strategies, 7.5 ECTS cr

The module gives basic orientation of interactionist social psychology. It deals with how people can affect one another in interaction and how we create shared experiences and conceptions together. The module centres on how social psychology and social analysis can be related.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, group work and seminars. An important element is that students are given the opportunity to develop skills in presenting and comparing theoretical arguments in their own words, orally and in writing.

Module 2: Organising, Categorising and Resistance, 7.5 ECTS cr

Students acquire a theoretical understanding of the relations between organising, categorising and resistance. Special attention is paid to how the concepts, combined and separately, clarify the relation between the individual and society. Students also acquire knowledge of how theory can differ and the impact of this on social science analysis and interpretation.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, group work and seminars. An important element is that students are given the opportunity to develop skills in presenting and comparing theoretical arguments in their own words, orally and in writing.

Module 3: The Scientific Approach, 7.5 ECTS cr

The module deepens and advances the study of theory of science and includes basic knowledge of qualitative and quantitative methods. There are also elements of the ethical aspects of data collection and different forms of applied research.

Students apply a scientific approach, formulating problems and designing empirical data collection instruments. They also practise conducting a number of interviews and questionnaire surveys and reflect on problems encountered in the data collection process.

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

Module 4: Project in Social Analysis: Organising, 7.5 ECTS cr

The module reinforces methodology, the steps of the research process and research ethical considerations. Students formulate aim and research questions for their own study in conjunction with one or several of the researchers in the department. The empirical material is collected through established contacts in society. During the writing process the students are supported by the programme writing support services. Continuous group supervision linked to the steps in the research process is provided. The completed thesis is discussed and defended in a seminar.

Instruction is in the form of lectures and supervision.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

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

Module 1: What is Social Psychology?, 7.5 ECTS cr

Assessment is based active participation in seminars and a written exam.

Module 2: Organising, Categorising and Resistance, 7.5 ECTS cr

Assessment is based on an individual take-home exam.

Module 3: The Scientific Approach, 7.5 ECTS cr

Assessment is based on an individual take-home exam, and a written pair assignment discussed at a mandatory seminar.

Module 4: Project in Social Analysis: Organising, 7.5 ECTS cr

Assessment is based on w thesis presented and discussed at a mandatory seminar and on student performance as a peer reviewer.

The number of examination opportunities for module 4 is limited to five.

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

Required course for the Social Analysis and Organising programme.