



Faculty of Arts and Social Science
Sociology

Syllabus

Social Change

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Course Code: | SOGA70 |
| Course Title: | Social Change <i>Social förändring</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 Science 2016-03-14, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2016 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

The course "Social Organizing, Public Sociology and Research Practice", SOGA50, 30 ECTS cr (completed) and "The Individual and Society", SOGA60, 30 ECTS cr (at least 7.5 ECTS cr completed)

Learning Outcomes

Module 1: Social Change in Demographic Perspective 7.5 ECTS cr

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

- describe basic demographic concepts,
- give an account of central aspects of demographic change with a focus on altered age structure,
- identify and use demographically relevant statistics,
- give examples of how demographic changes can be understood in terms of social science theories and how social change can be explained in the light of demography, and
- give an account of how demographic change can be related to societal organizing.

Module 2: Media, Technology and Changes of Social Space 7.5 ECTS cr

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

- account for a selection of social science theories on media, technologies and spatiality,
- give an account of and problematise the interplay between media, technology and spatiality on the basis of different theories using historical and contemporary examples,
- use text analysis instruments to discuss the Internet and social change based on empirical material.

Module 3: Global Perspectives and Processes 7.5 ECTS cr

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

- analyse how local, regional, national and international processes relate to globalisation,
- give examples of how different social phenomena are organised in terms of globalisation processes, and
- give an account of different social science perspectives on globalisation processes and state similarities and differences.

Module 4: Social Analysis Project on Organizing 7.5 ECTS cr

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

- formulate aim and research questions on a central problem area with relevance to the programme,
- choose and use adequate data collection methods,
- process and analyse empirical data against the background of earlier research and theories in the field of organising,
- write research reports on the basis of empirical studies, and
- critically review the works of others.

Content

Module 1: Social Change in Demographic Perspective 7.5 ECTS cr

The module deals with demographic changes in societies from a historical and contemporary perspective. Facts on demographic change are interpreted with the help of social change theories, and demographic issues in different countries and regions are compared.

Instruction is in the form of lectures and laboratory work.

Module 2: Media, Technology and Changes of Social Space 7.5 ECTS cr

The importance of media, technology and space to social change is studied on the basis of historical and contemporary examples. An important part of the course is students' own analyses of media and spaces. Important module components are the study and application of the social science theories and text analysis tools developed through research on these phenomena.

Instruction comes in the form of lectures, groupwork and seminars. An important component is that students develop skills in text analysis together with tutors.

Module 3: Global Perspectives and processes 7.5 ECTS cr

The module provides insight into global perspectives on societal organizing. The aim is to demonstrate how different phenomena in society are related to globalisation processes at the local, regional, national and international levels and how the globalisation partly dissolves the boundaries between the levels. Different contemporary social phenomena related to globalisation are treated such as class, culture, consumption and work.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, groupwork and seminars. Students have opportunities to develop oral and written communicative skills in applying and presenting theoretical arguments.

Module 4: Social Analysis Project on Organizing 7.5 ECTS cr

The module reinforces students' knowledge of methodology, the research process and research ethics. Students formulate the aim and research questions of their own study in close cooperation with one or several researchers in the department. The empirical material is collected with the help of established contacts in the community. Group supervision is continuous and linked to the steps in the research process. The writing workshop supports writing skills. The academic text, i.e. the essay, is discussed and defended in a seminar.

Instruction is in the form of lectures and supervision.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Module 1: Social Change in Demographic Perspective 7.5 ECTS cr

Assessment is based on active seminar participation, individual take-home exam and group presentation of exam tasks.

Module 2: Media, Technology and Social Space Changes 7.5 ECTS cr

Assessment is based on active seminar and workshop participation and an individual take-home exam.

Module 3: Global Perspectives and processes 7.5 ECTS cr

Assessment is based on active seminar participation and individual take-home exams discussed in seminar.

Module 4: Social Analysis Project on Organizing 7.5 ECTS cr

Assessment is based on an essay presented and defended in a mandatory seminar and on performance as a peer reviewer.

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

First approved on 27 Sept 2012.

Required course for the social analyst programme with an emphasis on organising