



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Sociology  
Syllabus

**Course Approval**

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 12 February 2013, and is valid from the Spring semester of 2014 at Karlstad University.

**Course Code:** SOGA80

**Producing Knowledge of Complex Social processes, 30.0 ECTS Credits**

**(Att skapa kunskap om komplexa sociala processer, 30.0 Swedish credit points)**

**Degree Level:** Bachelor

**Progressive Specialisation:** G2F (First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements)

**Language of Instruction**

Swedish

**Prerequisites**

The courses SOGA50 Social Organizing, Public Sociology and research Practice 30 ECTS cr, SOGA60 The Individual in Society 30 ECTS, and at least 7.5 ECTS cr completed of SOGA70 Social Change 30 ECTS cr.

**Major Field of Study**

SOA (Sociology)

**Learning Outcomes**

The course comprises two modules:

Module 1: A Complex World, 15 ECTS cr

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

- describe and problematise current social problems and different connections between them,
- describe and problematise the conceptions of the same problems and connections,
- describe and analyse social and global problems such as poverty, unemployment, environmental pollution, and organised crime,
- identify and analyse complex social change processes theoretically and in different field work environments,
- give an oral and written account of how social change processes can take shape in different fields and organisations.

Module 2 Organisations, Organising Processes and Social Analysis, 15 ECTS cr

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

- give an account of how management, organising and quality assurance have been presented in classic organisation theory,
- discuss and problematise current common concepts and models for organising and leading based on critical organisation theory,
- identify and analyse the influence and situation of different actors in the change process and knowledge production on the basis of development and evidence-based practice, and

- identify problems in case descriptions and give examples of solutions and their implementation.

## Content and Form of Instruction

### Module 1: A Complex World, 15 ECTS cr

The module deals with current social problems in individual societies and globally with a special emphasis on the relation between different change processes and the type of problems they cause. Also conceptions of what constitutes a social problem are treated. Students learn about colliding interests in society, how conceptions of social problems arise and the difficulties of finding clear-cut solutions to for example poverty, unemployment, environmental pollution and organised crime. The module includes practical exercises and a minor project in which students investigate a complex process.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, seminars, field trips and oral and written reports.

### Module 2 Organisations, Organising Processes and Social Analysis, 15 ECTS cr

The module is based on theories of organising and organisational behaviour. Several perspectives are treated with an emphasis on current research and critical theory, as for example the conditions for change and knowledge formation in different formal and informal organisations as well as the private and public sectors. Organising processes as communication, learning, change, management and decision-making are problematised. The relation between organisation and the surrounding world is discussed. Organisation development and evidence-based practice are discussed as examples of change processes. Students learn to identify different kinds of management as a means of forming knowledge, finding solutions to specific problems and implementing them. Through practical exercises students develop their abilities to reflect on, understand and lead change project on the basis of research and theories of management and change. The module includes examples from current research used as case studies in groups and roleplay.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, practical exercises, roleplay and laboratory sessions. Field trips and field work are included. Theory and practice are combined to support the students' abilities to reflect on and handle complex organisational processes.

## Reading List

See separate document.

## Examination

### Module 1 A Complex World, 15 ECTS cr

Assessment is based on a written exam and a project, presented and discussed in mandatory seminars.

### Module 2 Organisations, Organising Processes and Social Analysis, 15 ECTS cr

Assessment is based on a written exam and on a group assignment/research circle, presented and discussed in mandatory 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 of 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.

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