



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Syllabus

Reg.no. HS 2022/1127

Master Programme in Critical Social Analysis

Programme Code:	SALYS
Programme Title:	Master Programme in Critical Social Analysis Masterprogram i kritisk samhällsanalys
Credits:	120
Programme Approval:	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Science on 8 December 2022, and applies as of the autumn semester of 2023.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish and English
Education Cycle:	Second
Degree Type:	General Degree of Master 120 credits with the possibility of a Degree of Master 60 credits
Entry Requirements:	Bachelor's degree of at least 180 credits, including a degree project of at least 15 credits. A minimum of 90 credits (with at least 30 credits at the G2F level or above) in sociology or academically adjacent subject such as anthropology, working life science, ethnology, gender studies, administrative science, criminology, social psychology, social work, political science or social studies. Upper secondary school level Swedish 3 or B, and English 6 or A, or equivalent.

General Information

The Master programme in critical social analysis is designed to deepen the students' understanding of the analysis, theories and methods of sociology and social science. Various sociological theories are discussed and critically compared. Students learn advanced data collection and analysis methods for qualitative as well as quantitative approaches. Special emphasis is put on critical analysis of power applied to society at large and within organisations. The programme's critical perspective involves observing and describing aspects and phenomena that are generally taken for granted or unaddressed.

Considerable weight is given to developing skills such as critically reviewing and presenting research studies.

The programme includes discussions and analysis of gender equality and gender from different perspectives. In addition, current issues on sustainable development in relation to the individual and society are discussed.

The programme is suitable for Bachelor graduates in social analysis, political science, social psychology or related subjects. Programme graduates are prepared for advanced investigation and analysis, development work and research.

The programme offers two possible outcomes. The student can pursue a Degree of Master 60 credits or a Degree of Master 120 credits.

Programme Outcomes

For programme completion, students must meet the national requirements for a Degree of Master (60 and 120 credits).

National outcomes for a Degree of Master (60 credits)

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate deepened methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues autonomously as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames,
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing to report clearly and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or employment in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Independent project (degree project)

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Master (60 credits) is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 15 credits in the main field of study.

National outcomes for a Degree of Master (120 credits)

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and

- demonstrate deepened methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues critically, autonomously and creatively as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and so contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as the ability to evaluate this work,
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing both nationally and internationally to clearly report and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or autonomous employment in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Independent project (degree project)

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Master (120 credits) is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 30 credits in the main field of study. The degree project may comprise less than 30 credits, however no less than 15 credits, if the student has already completed an independent project in the second cycle for at least 15 credits in the main field of study or the equivalent from a programme of study outside Sweden.

Programme Structure

The first two semesters start with courses on sociological theory and methods, with a special focus on critical perspectives and analytical methods. In addition, there are thematic courses with an emphasis on power issues. In the first semester, students take a course on the relation between the global and the local as well as a course on resistance and power. In the second semester, students take a course in environmental sociology and a course in external monitoring and research review. During the second semester, students either complete an independent project for the Master's degree 60 credits and leave the programme, or continue towards a Master's degree 120 credits. Students who choose to continue their studies take two more courses on sociological theory and methods. In the third semester, students choose electives at Master level, studies abroad or practical placement. Students are responsible for finding a placement themselves. Students who have completed an independent project of 15 credits at Master's level may complete the programme with a 15-credit Master's thesis, which would correspond to a Master's thesis of 30 credits. Within the programme, varied forms of instructions are used in order to promote student-centred learning.

Programme Curriculum

The programme offers the choice of either of two qualifications. A Degree of Master 60 credits (after one year) or a Degree of Master 120 credits (after two years).

The programme's study route (note that the courses can have somewhat different titles and be offered in a different order than listed below).

Degree of Master (60 credits)

Semester 1

Sociological Theory, 7.5 credits

Methodologies and Methods in Social Research, 7.5 credits

Glocal Relations, 7.5 credits
Critical Perspectives on Resistance and Social Change, 7.5 credits

Semester 2

External Monitoring and Research Review, 7.5 credits
Environmental Problems and Environmental Work as Social Processes, 7.5 credits
Sociology IV, Degree Project, 15 credits

Degree of Master (120 credits)

Semester 1

Sociological Theory, 7.5 credits
Methodologies and Methods in Social Research, 7.5 credits
Glocal Relations, 7.5 credits
Critical Perspectives on Resistance and Social Change, 7.5 credits

Semester 2

External Monitoring and Research Review, 7.5 credits
Environmental Problems and Environmental Work as Social Processes, 7.5 credits
Recognition, Authenticity and Resonance, 7.5 credits
Advanced Qualitative and Quantitative Data Analysis, 7.5 credits

Semester 3

Semester 3 is an optional semester. Students take elective courses at Master level, study abroad or carry out a practical placement. Tutors and study advisers can guide students in assessing the suitability of practical placement to their educational profile.

Semester 4

Sociology IV, Degree Project, 30 credits

Degree Title

Degree of Master of Social Science (60 credits)
Main field of study: Sociology

Degree of Master of Social Science (120 credits)

Main field of study: Sociology

Transfer of credits

According to the Higher Education Ordinance Ch. 6 Sec. 6–8 students have the right to transfer credits and have prior learning recognised upon approval.

Further information

The local regulations for first and second cycle education at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

A previous version of the programme syllabus has been approved:
5 December 2019, Reg.no HS 2019/1321, effective from the autumn semester of 2020.