



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Syllabus

Reg.no. HS 2023/1034

Behavioural Science Programme

Programme Code:	SGBET
Programme Title:	Behavioural Science Programme
Credits:	180
Programme Approval:	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 26 October 2023 and is in effect as of the autumn semester of 2024.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish
Education Cycle:	First cycle
Degree Type:	General
Entry Requirements:	General entry requirements, plus Mathematics 2a or 2b or 2c and Civics 1b or 1a1 + 1a2. Optional courses may have other requirements.

Introduction

The Behavioural Science Programme (180 credits) is a three-year bachelor's programme. The foundation of the degree programme is how sociology is instrumental for understanding connections between current societal problems and the challenges that people experience in their daily lives, as well as how to apply such knowledge in behavioural science analyses. The programme is specialised towards leadership and how to organise change management and development efforts in collaboration with others. Furthermore, the programme emphasises students' ability to utilise scientific methods and carry out scientific investigations. This will promote a kind of analytical expertise that is sought after by many employers.

The Behavioural Science Programme includes 105 mandatory credits in sociology, which is the main field of study for the degree. Included are also mandatory courses in psychology (22.5 credits), social psychology (15 credits) and gender studies (7.5 credits). Beyond the mandatory

courses, the programme also offers an optional semester that can be spent studying abroad, taking courses in other subjects or completing a practical placement period at a workplace.

Behavioural scientists can serve many roles in a number of varied occupations. The knowledge and abilities provided by the programme can, for example, be used within fields such as communication, marketing, recruitment, sustainable development, public management and administration, rehabilitation and treatment, crime prevention and correctional services, diversity and equity work, and integration work. Behavioural Science Programme graduates can go on to work in various fields as organisational developer, business developer, analyst, strategist, process leader, or project leader. Behavioural scientists are sought after by employers in both the public and private sectors, as well as non-governmental organisations and civil society at large. The opportunity to take optional courses in the fifth semester provides students the ability to specialise their knowledge and expertise toward their desired behavioural science fields.

Programme Outcomes

For programme completion, students must meet the national requirements for a Degree of Bachelor as well as the specific local programme outcomes.

National outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field, knowledge of applicable methodologies in the field, specialised study in some aspect of the field as well as awareness of current research issues.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to search for, gather, evaluate and critically interpret the relevant information for a formulated problem and also discuss phenomena, issues and situations critically,
- demonstrate the ability to identify, formulate and solve problems autonomously and to complete tasks within predetermined time frames,
- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss information, problems and solutions in speech and writing and in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required to work autonomously in the main field of study.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical aspects,
- demonstrate insight into the role of knowledge 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 undertake ongoing development of his or her skills.

Local outcomes

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall:

- demonstrate understanding of fundamental psychology and gender studies perspectives on human behaviour,
- discuss conditions for organisational development and change, in relation to various perspectives on leadership and styles of leadership, and
- demonstrate knowledge about the importance of sociology for understanding connections between current societal problems and the challenges that people experience in their daily lives, as well as the ability to apply such knowledge in behavioural science analyses.

Programme Structure

The Behavioural Science Programme comprises six semesters. The programme requires full-time studies over a three-year period. The programme is designed to encourage the student to actively participate in the learning process. This is achieved through varied and student-oriented teaching, comprising lectures, seminars, workshops, group assignments, role play, independent projects, and problem-based learning. Examination formats include written exams, take-home exams, seminar assignments, projects and oral presentations – either conducted individually or in groups. Opportunities for establishing contacts with future workplaces are provided in several ways throughout the programme: in conjunction with guest lectures by professional behavioural scientists and sociologists, through independent projects and degree projects, and via the opportunity to complete an internship/practical placement period during the optional semester. The programme promotes knowledge of sustainable development through courses on social stratification, societal change and conditions for social integration.

The first and second semesters provide an overview of the academic disciplines social psychology, sociology and psychology, with a particular emphasis on social psychology and sociology. This is achieved through introductory courses and theoretical courses. The first year of the programme also includes two courses on method and a smaller scholarly project, which serves as an introduction to scientific method and how to conduct scientific investigations.

The third semester broadens the perspective by adding psychology and gender studies, while also providing more in-depth studies related to leadership and organisational development. The semester starts with courses in psychology, with one focusing on developmental psychology and personality, and one on leadership. The semester continues with a sociology course on organisational theory and project management, and is concluded with a gender studies course on gender equality work in theory and practice. The fourth semester goes further in-depth on thematic areas relevant to understanding human behaviour and interaction in a broader, social perspective. This includes the effects of digital media in everyday life, as well as how social change affect conditions for social integration.

The fifth semester is optional and can be spent completing a practical placement period or taking courses at either Karlstad University or another higher education institution. There is also the opportunity to study abroad during this semester. The sixth and final semester offers specialisation in sociological and social psychological theory and methods. It also includes an independent project worth 15 credits.

Programme Curriculum

Note that titles and order of programme courses may vary from the list below.

Semester 1

Introduction to social psychology, 7.5 credits

The course provides the fundamentals in terms of social psychology concepts and theory pertaining to both the community-focused and the psychology-focused branches of social psychology. The course also focuses on social influence and how people's values and actions are affected by social situations. Finally, the course also includes a social psychology perspective on self-understanding and identity.

Introduction to sociology, 7.5 credits

The course introduces sociological theories and perspectives that are central for understanding how people's interactions are organised and how groups and communities are stratified. The course covers social stratification, with an emphasis on class and gender. Organisational sociology perspectives are introduced in order to lay the groundwork for latter courses in the programme, which deal with organisations and organisational processes. The course also provides an overview of the development of Swedish organisations, as well as how they are currently organised and governed.

Kommenterad [JK1]: Jag har tagit de engelska kursititlarna från hemsidan, men i några fall har jag gjort kommentarer med förslag på ändringar.

Introduction to psychology, 7.5 credits

The course provides an introduction to psychology, with an emphasis on fundamental theories regarding biological and cognitive aspects of behaviour. The course deals with phenomena such as learning and conditioning, perception and memory, motivation and emotion, and stress and health, with an emphasis on normally functioning adulthood. Neuropsychiatric disabilities are covered briefly.

Introduction to scientific method, 7.5 credits

The course provides the basics in scientific theory, the different stages of the research process, and methodology problems when conducting behavioural science investigations. The course highlights differences between qualitative and quantitative methods, as well as issues related to ethics in research. Through practical exercises, students learn to perform basic data collection and information gathering.

Semester 2*Social psychological theory, 7.5 credits*

The course further delves into social psychology theory, with an emphasis on interaction, situation and organisation. Students gain an in-depth social psychology perspective on personal life, based on themes such as love, friendship, trust, betrayal and politics. Furthermore, the course deals with how interactions on an organisational level are affected by emotions and various forms of power.

Sociological theory, 7.5 credits

The course covers historical and modern sociological theories. The various perspectives of the historical theories, as well as some of the schools that sprung from them, are explained. The course also covers important academics from the post-war era and how their ideas can be traced in current theoretical discussions within social science in general and sociology in particular.

Scientific method: Intermediate level, 7.5 credits

The course provides more in-depth knowledge of the research process. Students' knowledge of designing empirical studies are further developed through practical exercises which includes formulating thesis statements and constructing theory-based methods for collecting empirical data. Students perform their own analyses of quantitative and qualitative data, and reflect on any questions and issues that arose throughout the process.

Early research project, 7.5 credits

The course includes repetition of methodology, the different stages of the research process and ethical considerations in research. Together with researchers, students formulate aims and thesis statements for their behavioural science studies. Students choose whether to employ a sociology or social psychology perspective in their studies. The empirical material is collected via pre-established collaborations with the wider community. Based on their findings, students write academic texts which they then defend at a seminar.

Kommenterad [JK2]: Förslag: Introductory research project

Semester 3*Developmental psychology and personality, 7.5 credits*

The course deals with human development from a life-span perspective. Various aspects of development, such as cognition and emotion, are described in relation to the respective development phase. The interaction between biological, psychological, social, and cultural developmental factors are highlighted. The course also provides an introduction to fundamental theories and concepts in personality psychology.

Psychological perspectives on leadership, 7.5 credits

Students are provided basic knowledge about leadership, based on various psychological perspectives. The importance of communication in leadership is highlighted and analysed from

the perspective of both the individual as well as an organisational perspective. This is achieved through the use of role play. Various aspects of group processes and organisational change are presented and discussed in relation to psychological theories concerning leadership.

Organisations, organisation processes and project management, 7.5 credits

The course further develops sociological and social psychological perspectives on organisations and organisational behaviour. The fundamentals of project management methodology are covered in terms of both theory and practice. Through practical exercises, students develop their ability to, based on research and theory related to leadership and change, reflect on, understand and lead projects aimed at achieving change within organisations.

Gender as perspective and gender equality work, 7.5 credits

The course serves as an introduction to gender studies and gender equality, with an emphasis on organisations, business development and leadership in the working life. Particular emphasis is placed on practical applications, such as the conditions and methods for integrating gender perspectives and gender equality in policy documents. The importance of good leadership in order to succeed in implementing changes is discussed, and gender issues related to leadership are highlighted through examples from both private and public organisations.

Kommenterad [JK3]: Jag föreslår "gender perspective" istället för "gender as perspective"

Semester 4

Digital media, power and everyday life, 7.5 credits

The course provides an introduction to historical research and behavioural science research on digital media, as well as important tools for analysis and their various possible applications. Students learn the history of digital media and how it is used in order to exert power. Students also perform field analyses, where digital media in everyday life or in organisations are analysed using, for example, computer-assisted content analysis and multimodal analysis.

Emotions, intimacy and personal life, 7.5 credits

The course deals with the sociology of emotions, with a particular emphasis on intimacy and personal life. Students gain knowledge about the history of the sociology of emotions and its theories as well as current research. Analyses of existing empirical material are sometimes required. Students are also presented with a statistical overview of the living conditions of Swedish and European populations.

Social change with focus on aging and migration, 7.5 credits

The course provides an introduction to changes in the population, with a particular focus on migration and aging. Emphasis is on current conditions in Sweden. The course further develops the students' abilities to describe and analyse the individual as a part of society, based on critical perspectives on categories and bases for discrimination such as age and ethnicity. Furthermore, students practice discussing how social change affect the conditions for living in various places. The aim is to lay the groundwork for the course on place, life conditions and belonging, described below.

Kommenterad [JK4]: Förslag: "Social change with an emphasis on..."

Place, life conditions and belonging, 7.5 credits

The course further develops students' ability to analyse how late modern social change affect life conditions both for local communities in a national context. Effects of for example globalisation and migration at regional and local levels are discussed, using both urban and rural examples. Place and life conditions are treated in relation to issues regarding belonging, social integration and polarisation between groups and geographical areas. The course also provides some insight into social work as a method of combating social issues and reinforcing social integration.

Semester 5

Elective semester, 30 credits

The fifth semester can either be spent completing a practical placement period or taking optional courses at Karlstad University or any other university in Sweden or abroad. Optional courses must not overlap to any significant extent with other courses on the Political Science

programme. Students who choose practical placement must arrange their internship themselves, with support from the programme director. The University cannot guarantee placements.

Semester 6

Specialisation course in sociological and social psychological theory, 7.5 credits

The course provides specialisation on modern sociological and social psychological theories, based on for example the consequences of globalisation and individualisation. Further specialisation is also provided on promising or debated current social science and behavioural science research.

Specialisation course in scientific method, 7.5 credits

The course includes both quantitative and qualitative analysis of data. Furthermore, modern sociological methods of analysis are critically examined. The quantitative analysis is primarily focused on statistical generalisation and hypothesis testing. Various forms of qualitative analysis can be presented throughout the course. For example, the Grounded Theory tradition and narrative analysis are both presented and applied.

Independent Project, 15 credits

In this course, students complete a theoretically and/or empirically based project within the main field of study, sociology. With supervision, students independently conduct a sociological or social psychological study. Students are required to demonstrate the ability to, based on previous research, formulate a thesis statement relevant to behavioural science, as well as design and carry out an adequate research plan. The independent project is then reviewed and defended at a seminar.

Title of Qualification

Degree of Bachelor of Social Science

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.

Additional Information

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

Kommenterad [JK5]: Jag kunde inte hitta några officiella engelska kurs titlar för de kurser som ingår i den sista terminen, så det här är mina översättningar.