



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Study Plan

Social analysis

Programme Code SGLYS

Programme Title: Social analysis

ECTS Credits 180

Approval The programme study plan was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 8 September 2016, and is effective from the autumn semester 2017.

Language of Instruction: Swedish

Degree Level: Bachelor's

Degree Qualifications: General

Prerequisites General admission requirements and Mathematics 2a or 2b or 2c and Civics 1b or 1a1 + 1a2.

Optional courses may have different admission requirements.

Introduction

The programme *Social analysis* is designed to educate analysts with the skills to handle and produce knowledge of complex social processes. The disciplinary base is sociology, which is the main field of study, and social psychology, an area of sociology.

The programme centres on processes through which people create formal and informal hierarchies, markets and networks – the phenomenon of organizing. Public sociology is an important perspective involving acting as a knowledge producer with an understanding of the fundamental conditions of knowledge.

The knowledge and skills that students develop in this programme are on demand in a wide range of professions and graduates can work as an analyst, investigator, behaviourist, researcher, method supporter, marketer, coach, or business developer. Future employers are to be found in the public and private sectors as well as non-profit organizations and civil society at large.

Aims and Learning Outcomes

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

National outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in sociology, 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 independently 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 independently in sociology.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues
- 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 on-going learning.

Local outcomes

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge of classic and contemporary theories in sociology and social psychology with special relevance for the concept of organizing,
- collect data, conduct analysis and report results from a public sociology perspective or similar sociological theory perspectives,
- demonstrate understanding of the conditions of using sociology and social psychology in practice in various social sectors.

Programme Structure

The programme Social analysis comprises six semesters.

The aim of courses is to provide knowledge in four areas: society, the individual, social changes and complex social processes. The first four semesters are thematized according to this division, while the fifth semester is optional and the sixth is intended to synthesize and apply acquired knowledge and skills. The courses can also be divided into the pedagogical categories: introductory courses, theoretical and thematic courses and methods courses.

All introductory courses take place in the first semester and provide understanding of organizing as a research area and of sociology and social psychology, thus offering a frame of reference for the courses to come. Students are equipped with tools to conduct group and project work knowledgeably. The students practice group and project methods throughout the programme and many examination components are based on this type of student cooperation.

The methods components aim to prepare students for the future professional practice and provide insights into the art of research for further studies at Master and doctoral levels. The students develop skills in sociological as well as social psychological investigation methods, including interview, conversation and observation methods. There are also courses where students train project management and how to handle change processes.

Instruction and examination of the thematic courses are designed to prepare students for making contributions to knowledge in a specifically delimited area. An important aspect of these courses is that the theme studied is related to the issue of organizing.

Laboratory lessons are important programme elements. These may involve various types of roleplay, a common method in social psychology that helps students to understand other people in a given situation and invites sociological and social psychological reflection and analysis, as well as observation of social interaction and simple interviews. Guest lecturers will share their work experiences, and give an overview of relevant and interesting empirical fields.

Supervised writing workshops offered give students opportunity to develop writing skills.

Text production is a central part of the programme and students are introduced to techniques for reflective, qualitative and pleasurable writing. In some courses the workshops can be a component in assessment.

In the fifth semester, students can choose practical placement, study abroad or to broaden their knowledge by taking courses in political science, human geography or environmental science.

The concluding degree project involves investigating and answering a question that the student has formulated on her or his own. Students are encouraged to carry out the project in conjunction with e.g. a civil society organization or a relevant private company.

Programme Curriculum

Course of programme study. Note that programme courses may have different titles and be offered in another order than stated below.

Semester 1: Social organizing, public sociology and research practice

The first semester is designed to give students a basic idea of programme content, disciplinary base and the concept of organizing through theoretical studies and exercises.

The first course is the *Basics of Sociology*, introducing the theory and practice of sociology and social psychology. This is followed by the introductory course *Organizing* with discussions of central concepts. The two courses also include the study of how principal Swedish social institutions are organised.

The methods course *Roads to Knowledge* provides basic knowledge of the theory of science, the different stages in the research process and methodological problems pertaining to sociological and social psychological investigations. The methods course relates back to the previous course on organizing through the themes of its exercises. It also aims to give students a basis for reflection and assessment regarding how to deal with research ethical issues.

The course *Public Sociology, Research Environment and Practice* introduces students to sociological research at the university and gives opportunity to discuss with researchers and to conduct research-related work. The students also reflect on the relation between context, power and knowledge formation from a public sociology perspective.

Courses:

The Basics of Sociology 7.5 ECTS cr

Organizing 7.5 ECTS cr

Roads to Knowledge 7.5 ECTS cr

Public Sociology, Research Environment and Practice 7.5 ECTS cr

Semester 2: The Individual in Society

The second semester provides the tools necessary for understanding the individual in society, how individuals are affected, interact and resist. The first is the theoretical *Social Interaction and Strategies*, introducing research on interaction and strategic action, and serving as an introduction to social psychology. The next course is *Organizing, Categorising and Resisting*, treating theories on how individuals are organised by society and how they organise resistance. In the third course *The Scientific Method* students develop further knowledge and skills in the qualitative and quantitative methods. The focus is on theory of science and data collection. Students conduct a minor investigation and discuss theory of science in relation to their own research.

An *Independent Project* concludes the semester.

Courses:

Organizing, Categorising and Resisting 7.5 ECTS cr

Social Interaction and Strategies 7.5 ECTS cr

The Scientific Method 7.5 ECTS cr

Independent Project 7.5 ECTS cr

Semester 3: Social Change

In the third semester thematic courses deal with social change through three central examples: demographic change, media and technology, and globalisation. The semester concludes with a course on the changing roles of the knowledge producer and knowledge formation in society. The semester starts with *Social Change in a Demographic Perspective* with analysis and discussion of the current and historical changes of Swedish society with the help of national and international demographic data. This course has a special emphasis on the demographic changes facing Swedish society. In the second course *Media and Social Space Changes*, changes in media and the emergence of social media are analysed in relation to social change. Students acquire analytical tools to understand media and space.

The third course *Global Perspectives and Processes* broadens students' knowledge and understanding of organizing. It also offers insight into how local, regional and other processes are affected by globalisation.

The semester concludes with a specialised study of the role of the social analyst. The course *Public Sociology* provides deeper knowledge of relations, power and knowledge formation. Students reflect on how knowledge is created and by whom in relation to various social actors and sectors from a public sociological perspective. The knowledge concept is problematized from different perspectives and students are involved in related practical tasks that allow them insight into how some important external institutions are organised.

Courses:

Social Change in a Demographic Perspective 7.5 ECTS cr

Media and Social Space Changes 7.5 ECTS cr

Global Perspectives and Processes 7.5 ECTS cr

Public Sociology 7.5 ECTS cr

Semester 4: Producing Knowledge of Complex Social Processes

The fourth semester focuses on complex processes. These are processes that cannot be described in a single theory but requires interaction between several theories and methods. Students learn to reflect on and problematize the acquired knowledge and skills.

The semester is divided into two thematic courses. The first, *A Complex World*, develops students' understanding of complex processes by involving them in empirical work on a complex phenomenon and analysing it using classic and modern sociological theory. The second course, *Organisations, Organizing Processes and the Social Analyst*, centres on organisation, leadership and problem solving. Students learn to use different kinds of management to form knowledge, find solutions to specific problems and implement them. Research and theory on management and change are related to practical exercises in order to provide tools for reflection and develop students' abilities to lead projects and change processes in organizations.

Both courses include examples from current research. Theory, method and laboratory sessions alternate to allow students to discuss sociology and social psychology as the theoretical framework for knowledge formation in contexts characterised by complex processes.

Courses:

A Complex World 15 ECTS cr

Organisations, Organizing Processes and the Social Analyst 15 ECTS cr

Semester 5: Optional courses

Courses in the fifth term are optional. Students can choose to study in another department, university or partner university abroad. Political science, human geography and environment science are three examples of subjects that students can choose to study. Through such courses, they can acquire knowledge of processes other than social ones—political, geographical or ecological—which will enrich their understanding of social analysis during their sixth and final semester. Students also have the opportunity to complete practical placement at a workplace of their own choice.

Semester 6: Independent specialisation

The sixth semester includes a summing up and an independent project. Students who have studied optional courses in the fifth semester or completed practical placement have the chance to relay their knowledge to other students and relate it to programme content and aims. The last courses are adjusted to accommodate this knowledge to support students' abilities to analyse the complex interaction of social processes and other courses of events.

The semester starts with a theoretical course, *Theories of Organizing and Complexity*, designed to sum up, complement, compare and problematize the theories of organizing addressed in the programme, thus developing and deepening students' abilities to acquire, compare and use theory.

The course *Understanding and Analysis* is a methodological and methods specialisation in social science research with regard to generalisation, conclusions, explanatory approaches and the role of theory in research with a special emphasis on qualitative and quantitative data material. Students are expected to reinforce their skills in adopting a reflexive and critical approach through the alternation between methodology and analysis. In the course *Degree Project in Sociology*, students have the opportunity to produce their own knowledge under supervision. Students are encouraged to complete the project in conjunction with external partners.

Courses:

Theories of Organizing and Complexity 7.5 ECTS cr

Understanding and Analysis 7.5 ECTS cr

Degree Project in Sociology 15 ECTS cr

Degree Title

Bachelor of Social Science.

Major: Sociology

Credit Transfer

According to the Higher Education Ordinance (Ch. 6, § 12-14), students may transfer credits from previously completed university courses subject to approval.

Additional Information

Studying at another university

Students who wish to study courses at other universities in Sweden or abroad must make their own application and arrangements.

Local regulations

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