



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND WORK SCIENCE

SC30003 Classical sociological theory, 7.5 credits

Klassisk sociologisk teori, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation

This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Sociology and Work Science on 2019-06-17, and was last revised on 2021-01-04. The revised course syllabus is valid from Spring semester 2021.

Responsible Department

Department of Sociology and Work Science, Faculty of Social Sciences

Entry requirements

Qualifying applicants are persons admitted to postgraduate studies at the University of Gothenburg or another university. The course is mandatory for persons admitted to postgraduate studies in sociology at the University of Gothenburg, the University of Lund and the University of Copenhagen who therefore have priority to the course.

Learning outcomes

After completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Explain some of the central contributions to the subject of sociology that are accepted as sociological classics today.
- Problematised the classics discourse and put forward some examples of alternative classics, i.e. authors/texts that are/have been important within different parts of sociology, without being canonised.
- Have sufficient knowledge for discussion and evaluation of the importance and usability of the classics today by relating them to some of the challenges in recent decades against the theoretical grounds associated with the classics.

Competence and skills

- Present, explain and problematise at least one theoretical writing, sociological or alternative classics, within one of the areas covered by the course.
- Identify social science research areas in which sociological theory and alternative classics are applied.
- In your own written paper discuss how classical sociological theories and alternative classics and different texts about these are related to each other and to a chosen research problems.

Judgement and approach

- Identify and critically evaluate what is productive in using and combining different kinds of classical sociological theory and alternative classics.
- Reflect on and take a stand on theoretical problems in classical sociological theory and alternative classics.

Sustainability labelling

The course is sustainability-related, which means that at least one of the learning outcomes clearly shows that the course content meets at least one of University of Gothenburg's stipulated criteria for sustainability labelling.

Course content

The course is divided into three parts as follows: part 1: Canonised classics; part 2: Alternative classics; part 3: Topicality of the classics.

Types of instruction

If the course is given for more than five doctoral students, the forms of instruction are lectures and seminars.

If the course is given for five doctoral students or fewer, the forms of instruction may be literature studies, application exercises and supervision.

Language of instruction

The course is given in Swedish but can be given in English if necessary.

Grades

The grade Pass (G) or Fail (U) is given in this course.

Types of assessment

If the course is held for more than five students, the course is examined 1) through the submission of a paper written on your own and 2) your own presentation of literature, selected from the list of literature in consultation with the teacher, to the other course participants and teacher. 3) In the event of absence from the examining seminar, a supplementary examination is required in the form of a written discussion on the given literature.

If the course is held for five students or fewer, the course is examined through an individual assignment.

Course evaluation

The course is subjected to a written evaluation.

Other information

The course is related to sustainability, as one of the learning objectives of the course is to reflect independently on and evaluate classical social theory concerning issues of a) distribution, discrimination, health and poverty, and the interaction between social injustices, ill health, the natural environment and the chance for all people to have good living conditions, and b) how norms, culture, religion, ethics and social conditions may affect the relationship between people and nature.