



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND WORK SCIENCE

SC30007, Contemporary sociological theory, 7.5 credits

Samtida sociologisk teori, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation

This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Sociology and Work Science on 2019-04-26, and was last revised on 2024-01-08. The revised course syllabus is valid from Spring semester 2024.

Responsible Department

Department of Sociology and Work Science, Faculty of Social Sciences

Entry requirements

Qualifying applicants are persons admitted to postgraduate studies in sociology or other corresponding areas at the University of Gothenburg or another university.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- Identify and briefly describe and summarize a number of influential theories in contemporary sociology.
- Define the core concepts of these theories and identify which previous theories they criticize and/or develop further.
- Compare these theories to each other and in relation to different theory traditions.

Competence and skills

- Demonstrate an independent, critical and analytical approach to different perspectives in contemporary sociological theory.
- Reflect on how the theories can be applied in one's own thesis-project and on important social issues in present times.

Judgement and approach

- Critically discuss and evaluate strong and weak points of these theories.
- Evaluate the applicability of the different theories, and identify what possibilities and limitations that follows from applying them in one's own research problem.

Course content

The course aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of some major contemporary sociological theories and perspectives. The course covers theoretical approaches on different levels (macro, meso, and micro), and has a particular focus on the analytical connections between these levels in order to develop an understanding of the interdependence of individual/collective agency and structural patterns and processes. The course includes a number of specific modules which may vary, but they will cover general theoretical problems such as: social agency and resources for action, social interactions, relations and practices, social inequalities and power, and culture, structure and institutions.

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 are literature studies, application exercises and supervision.

Language of instruction

The course is given in English

Grades

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

Types of assessment

If the course is given for more than five doctoral students, the forms of examination are active seminar participation and short written assignments for each seminar, as well as through a final course paper, which is ventilated at a final meeting.

If the course is given for five doctoral students or fewer, the course is examined through a written assignment.

Course evaluation

The course is subjected to a written evaluation.