



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND WORK SCIENCE

SC30011, New perspectives on social movements and social change, power and resistance, 10 credits

Nya perspektiv på sociala rörelser och social förändring, makt och motstånd, 10 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation

This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Sociology and Work Science on 2019-10-22, and was last revised on 2024-01-04. 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 within the social sciences or humanities at the University of Gothenburg or another university.

Very good knowledge of English, both in speech and writing, is required for being able to take the course.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- explain, understand and problematize key ideas in a number of recent theoretical and methodological developments within the fields of social movement studies and resistance studies

Competence and skills

- develop an argument in the format of a scientific journal article, involving theoretical perspectives introduced during the course

Judgement and approach

- critically engage with the theoretical perspectives introduced in the course and to assess the utility of one or more of the perspectives in analyzing a concrete empirical case

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 aim of the course is to develop and deepen the participants' knowledge about (1) new theoretical and methodological perspectives on social movements and resistance; (2) new perspectives on social change and power by studying these phenomena through the lenses of theories about social movements and resistance.

Perspectives that will be discussed during the course include:

Social movements and social change: This section focuses on theories of social movements and of social change, re-visiting some of the classical works in light of recent theoretical developments.

The social forms of activism: This section explores the social organization of activism and resistance beyond the conventional focus on formal organizations.

Space, field and protest: Space and field are crucial analytical dimensions for understanding the dynamics of protest and popular resistance. This section explores how protest conditions –and is conditioned by – spatial and field dynamics.

Analytical and methodological approaches: This section focuses on methodological questions and concrete methods, particularly focusing analytical perspectives that emphasize discourses, narratives, processes, and emotions.

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 or less doctoral students, the forms of instruction may consist of readings, application 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

The learning outcomes will be examined by 1) an exam paper in the format of a journal article, and 2) an extended comment on the exam paper of a fellow student, where the strengths and weaknesses of the paper is discussed in a constructive manner. If the course is given for five doctoral students or less, the learning outcomes will be examined by an individual written assignment.

Course evaluation

The course is subjected to a written evaluation. If practically feasible a discussion reviewing the course should also be held between teachers, examiners and student representatives.

Other information

The course is sustainability related as the course's learning objectives relate to knowledge of social movements and resistance, which in various ways includes conflicts around democracy, human rights, justice issues and / or environmental issues.