



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND WORK SCIENCE

SC30020, Theories of Citizenship, Civil Society and Integration, 7.5 credits

Teorier om medborgarskap, civilsamhälle och integration, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation

This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Sociology and Work Science on 2024-12-17, and is valid from Spring semester 2025.

Responsible Department

Department of Sociology and Work Science, Faculty of Social Sciences

Entry requirements

Eligible applicants are individuals admitted to doctoral postgraduate studies in the Social Sciences or other related areas at the University of Gothenburg or other universities. A very good knowledge of English, both in speech and writing, will be required to be able to take the course.

Learning outcomes

Upon completing this course, students will have acquired:

Knowledge and understanding

- A comprehensive understanding of theories related to citizenship, civil society, and integration.
- The ability to critically analyse different models about citizenship, civil society, and integration.

Competence and skills

- The capacity to independently evaluate theories about citizenship, civil society and integration.
- Proficiency in the application of theories on case study analyses within different socio-

political contexts.

Judgement and approach

- An understanding of how to apply theoretical tools in developing research projects.

Course content

The course surveys and examines key theoretical debates around citizenship, integration, and civil society. Citizenship rights vary, with tensions arising between formal rights, the structures that grant or deny these rights, and substantial rights related to security, prejudice, and enforcement mechanisms. We analyze post-national, supranational, cosmopolitan, and transnational citizenship models, which go beyond and below the nation-state level, as well as models of integration. Integration, a much-critiqued concept, is used to describe processes of inclusion, participation, and incorporation, often referring to minoritized populations such as migrants, refugees, and their descendants. It is increasingly contingent on demonstrating indicators of integration, such as employment or language proficiency and is closely related to citizenship.

We also analyze governance models of incorporation at supranational, national, and local levels. The course problematizes and analyses different perspectives and models of citizenship, integration, and incorporation, highlighting their exclusive and inclusive features. In so doing, it emphasizes intersections between migration, class, ethnicity, gender, and racialization. Theories and perspectives are also examined in relation to the voluntary non-profit sector or civil society, exploring how civil society works to expand rights, compensate for welfare state shortcomings, and address exclusionary mechanisms. International and comparative case studies are used to explore the action-oriented nature of civil society in conditions of socioeconomic challenge and diversity. We examine theories of social capital and associated claims, the roles of various actors, their actions and activities, challenges, innovations, and ways of working to enhance opportunities and mitigate challenges.

Types of instruction

Lectures, seminars and individual studies.

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 course is examined through an individual paper that deals with one or more themes of the course and engages with the course readings and individual doctoral projects.

Course evaluation

The course will be evaluated both orally and in writing.