



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

SFGS310 General Social Science Theory, 7.5 credits

Generell samhällsvetenskaplig teori, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation

This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Global Studies on 2018-12-11, and is valid from Spring semester 2015.

Responsible department/equivalent

School of Global Studies, - No translation available -

Entry requirements

In order to be eligible for the course the applicant must fulfil the general entry requirements for third cycle studies. A good command of English is vital.

Learning outcomes

After completion of the course, the third-cycle student is expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- identify issues and debates around key questions of social science theory;

Competence and skills

- give a cogent analysis of key questions of social science theory;
- present arguments in writing about key questions of social science theory;

Judgment and approach

- evaluate normative aspects of contending positions on key questions of social science theory;
- assess the implications of different positions on key questions of social science theory for their own research.

Course content

The course runs over five consecutive weeks. Each week is devoted to a core question of social science theory, such as:

- the relationship between agency and structure in social relations
- linear and complex constructions of social explanation
- the nature of, and relationship between, various scales of social relations
- the role of ideational and material forces in social relations
- the relationship between knowledge and action in social research

Of course other topics might be highlighted also, such as the nature-society nexus, the role of culture in academic knowledge, and so on. The exact content will be determined in dialogue with the students.

Types of instruction

The course is taught with a mix of lectures, group discussions, individual readings, and written assignments.

Language of instruction

The course is given in English.

Grades

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

To be awarded a Pass grade for the course requires that all papers meet the criteria for a Pass grade.

Types of assessment

Students demonstrate that they achieve the above course aims through writing a weekly 3-page essay on the topic at hand. The paper should briefly: (a) identify the main issues and debates on the subject; (b) indicate the student's own position on the question; and (c) consider what this position implies for the student's approach to peace and development research.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary.

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

Course evaluation

Student evaluation of the course occurs through a special discussion with the conveners and in writing after the five weeks are completed. Students are also encouraged to offer their feedback

at any time during the course.