



Faculty of Social Sciences

CCRN01, Theories, Perspectives and Concepts of Cultural Criminology , 15 credits

Kulturkriminologiska teorier, perspektiv och begrepp, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Sociology on 2018-09-27 and was last revised on 2026-03-12. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-13 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

The course is given as a compulsory course on the Master's (120 credits) programme in Cultural Criminology.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study Specialisation

Sociology A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Social Anthropology A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

For a Pass on the course, the students shall

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate understanding and knowledge of key concepts in cultural criminology (1)
- demonstrate advanced understanding and knowledge of different theoretical views of and approaches to societal problems and phenomena of relevance for issues in cultural criminology, as well as identify their advantages and limitations (2)

- demonstrate advanced understanding and knowledge of how cultural factors (structures, ideologies, currents, approaches) arrange, enable and limit identities, hierarchies, social groups, activities and cultural expressions in issues concerning crime and crime prevention as well as deviation and social control (3)

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to account for how a cultural criminology approach to crime and crime prevention as well as deviation and social control differs from traditional criminology (4)
- demonstrate skills and ability to identify and formulate relevant issues based on theories and concepts within cultural criminology (5)
- demonstrate the ability to apply key concepts and theories within cultural criminology on different types of materials (6)
- based on a scientific approach, demonstrate the ability to show insight and understanding of, as well as argue for, different theoretical positions (7)
- demonstrate the ability to reflect on the importance of gender, diversity and stratification in relation to cultural criminology theories (8)

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to reflect on basic ethical and epistemological issues in relation to theories, perspectives and studies as well as presentations and reports (9)
- demonstrate insight into the limitations and possibilities of research, its role in societies, and the individual's responsibility for it is used (10)

Course content

The course aims to provide understanding and knowledge of a cultural criminology approach, i.e. how crime and crime prevention, deviations and normality are negotiated in a mutual relationship in different cultural contexts and with different outcomes. The course deals with cultural-sociological and anthropological theories concerning culture as a collectively negotiated system of meanings in which expectations, explanations, actions and identities are categorised, organised and interpreted. Demarcations between criminal and deviant thereby articulate the normal and organised, and vice versa.

The course is divided into two components. The first component introduces relevant concepts and theories in cultural criminology and increases understanding of the relevance of cultural-sociological and socio-anthropological approaches to issues related to crime, crime prevention, deviation and social control. The second component aims to apply these theories in order to formulate and, on a basic level, analyse phenomena relevant to cultural criminology.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, workshops, group assignments, seminars and supervision. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, participation in seminars is compulsory. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or retake compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

The course involves learning progression, starting with teacher directed learning to establish a common theoretical basis, followed by group assignments and discussions to prepare students for more independent work, including a final assessed take-home exam.

Assessment

Component 1 (7 credits) is assessed through an individual take-home exam (learning outcomes 1–3 as well as 7–10).

Component 2 (8 credits) is assessed through an individual take-home exam in which the students demonstrate their ability to apply theory in a critical and reflective way to analyse and discuss broader issues (learning outcomes 4–8)

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a retake close to the first examination and a catch-up exam for courses completed in the past academic year. Two further re-takes on the same course content are offered within a year of a major change or discontinuation of the course. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

The highest grade is A, and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail. The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student have shown unacceptable results.

Component 1 (7 credits) is exempted from the grading scale above. The grade awarded for this module is either Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass, the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail the student have shown unacceptable results.

The grade for the whole course is based on the final take-home exam. For a passing grade (at least E) on the whole course, the student must have at least passed both components, and have participated in all compulsory components.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus, and the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

Entry requirements

For admission to the course, the student must either be admitted to the Master's (120 credits) programme in Cultural Criminology, or have completed 150 credits, including a Bachelor's degree project in sociology, social anthropology or the equivalent.

Oral and written language proficiency in English equivalent to English 6/B from Swedish upper-secondary school is a requirement. International qualifications will be assessed in accordance with national guidelines.