



Faculty of Social Sciences

SANN06, Ethnography in Social Science, 15 credits

Samhällsvetenskaplig etnografi, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Sociology on 2024-10-24 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 within the Master's Programme in Social Anthropology (SASAN) 120 credits and the Master's programme in Cultural Criminology. The course is also available as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study Specialisation

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

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

Learning outcomes

For a pass grade on the course, the student is to be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- show knowledge of ethnography as research method
- show knowledge of ethnography applied to empirical research

Competence and skills

- show advanced ability to reflect on ethnography critically as social sciences research method

- demonstrate a specialised ability to critically reflect on the relationship between ethnography as a method and as theoretical analysis
- show advanced ability to analyse ethnographic methods that are used in different social and cultural contexts
- show advanced ability to carry out and present a limited ethnographic scientific work
- show advanced ability to carry out oral and written presentations

Judgement and approach

- show advanced ability to reflect on the researcher's social role and research ethics within the chosen field
- demonstrate an understanding of the role of knowledge in the society and the ability to identify their own need for additional knowledge and take responsibility for their own learning development

Course content

The course develops the student's ability to analyse the relationship between method and theory in qualitative ethnography. Throughout the course, students read, discuss and analyse ethnographic monographs and articles from different social science traditions and carry out a small ethnographic fieldwork project. The theme and the field of the work is chosen in consultation with teachers. In the course, students analyse epistemic issues from ethnographic and historical perspectives as well as from contemporary social sciences specialisations and themes.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and workshops. Participation in seminars and workshops is compulsory. Non-participation is compensated for by an assignment later in the course.

Assessment

Assessment is through an individual written take-home exam (15 credits)

Three exam sessions are offered in connection with the course: a first examination, a resit and a catch-up exam. 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 grade for unacceptable results is Fail. The student's results are assessed based on 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 has shown exceptional results. For the grade of Fail, the student has shown unacceptable results. At the start of the course, the student is informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and the grading scale and how this is applied during the course.

Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires the equivalent of a Swedish bachelor's degree with a major in social sciences, and 60 credits in social anthropology, sociology or an equivalent discipline.

Further information

The course has different literature depending on whether the student is studying the Master's Programme in Cultural Criminology (SACCR) or the Master's Programme in Social Anthropology (SASAN), as well as a free-standing course. See literature list.

The course replaces SANN04, Ethnography in Social Science, 15 credits.