

SGEA20, Human Geography: Level 1, 30 credits

Samhällsgeografi: Grundkurs, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Human Geography on 2015-06-02 and was last revised on 2019-02-05. The revised syllabus applies from 2019-03-15, autumn semester 2019.

General Information

The course is offered as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Components in other Scandinavian languages and English may be included.

Main field of studies

Human Geography

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, students shall be able to demonstrate

Knowledge and understanding

- basic knowledge of human geography as a scientific discipline, as well as of cartography and other spatial representations, and an understanding of their applications
- basic understanding of the essential features of regional development in Sweden and Europe
- basic knowledge of geographic perspectives on issues of population, resources, landscape and urbanisation, and economic and regional development
- basic understanding of the impact of demographic components on societal development
- basic insight into the process of urbanisation and the emergence of cities

Competence and skills

- the ability to provide a general description of human geography as a scientific discipline, an understanding of its basic concepts and account for the methods of the subject in relation to the different themes of the course
- the ability to account for basic theories and concepts of population geography
- the ability to account for and discuss basic knowledge of and relationships between population, resource use and environmental impact from a global perspective
- the ability to problematise, at a basic level, the consequences of the global economy for different types of societies
- the ability to describe fundamental historical and present-day connections that have shaped the cultural landscape
- the ability to account for basic theories and concepts of economic geography and apply them to basic issues of economic geography
- the ability to communicate the contents of the course in both speech and writing
- the ability to independently search for information about the themes of the course, critically analyse and evaluate the information and its sources, and effectively communicate the findings
- the ability to apply correct academic referencing

Judgement and approach

- an approach demonstrating how societal issues can be analysed from a spatial perspective
- an ability to critically review and assess texts, scholarly as well as mass media, related to the contents of the course

Course content

The course consists of the following four modules:

Module 1 Human Geography: Subject Introduction (7.5 credits)

The module provides students with a basic understanding of human geography as a scientific discipline, including its basic concepts and history of ideas, and basic knowledge of population geography. Present-day examples and an historical overview illustrate how the subject can contribute to an analysis of societal changes and what a spatial perspective means in this context. Moreover, the module provides a basic understanding of cartography and other spatial representations, present-day as well as historical. Other topics discussed include the relationship of human geography to other disciplines. The module also provides knowledge and understanding of the global population distribution and its underlying factors. Finally, the module provides basic theoretical knowledge of the primary demographic change factors (fertility, mortality and migration) and how they affect and are affected by the surrounding society.

Module 2 Economic Geography (7.5 credits)

The module deals with different perspectives on basic concepts, theories and issues of empirical data in economic geography. Different areas of economic geography and their historical development to the present are discussed, described and analysed. Special emphasis is placed on the relationship between companies and places, i.e. how companies are dependent on and affected by regional dynamics. Furthermore, the connection between economic geography and other socio-economic disciplines is discussed. Regional development, as represented by Sweden and Europe, is

problematised and fundamental political strategies are identified and assessed during the course.

Module 3 Landscape Change, Urbanisation and the Geography of Society (7.5 credits)

The module deals with the emergence of the surrounding, culturally governed physical structure and how it has affected and affects the living conditions of people. Furthermore, the module provides students with knowledge and insight concerning the landscape as a concrete meeting place for different forms of human life and activity, in cities as well as in rural areas. The module provides a basic understanding of the urbanisation process, the emergence of cities and the consequences of urbanisation for the environment. Moreover, it addresses the structure and functions of cities and current problems associated with urban development. The module poses basic questions of which forces shape the cultural landscape. Historically conditioned and present-day processes and structures are introduced as explanations. The symbolic dimensions of the landscape are also highlighted, as are the issues of environment and gender linked to the themes of the course. The areas studied are mainly Swedish and European regions. Field trips to rural areas and cities are included in the module.

Module 4 Global Challenges: Resources, Environment, Political Economy (7.5 credits)

The module deals with issues concerning the relationships between resource use, environmental impact, and political and economic connections in different parts of the world against the background of population development. Environmental issues and societal strategies to create a sustainable society are highlighted and interrogated. The module poses basic questions about globalisation processes and their nature, viewed from the perspectives of both developed and less developed economies. Relationships in the form of production links, and trade and capital flows between globally unevenly distributed economies are described and analysed. Connections between transnational business activities in different types of countries and the societal consequences of these are analysed and discussed.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, exercises, seminars and field trips. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in exercises, seminars and field trips. 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 re-take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have missed teaching because of activities as a student representative.

Assessment

The assessment is based on written and oral exams. The exams cover the teaching and required reading of each module. 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 during the past academic year. Two further re-examinations 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.

Module 1 is assessed through a written invigilated exam and two seminar assignments.

Module 2 is assessed through a written invigilated exam and two seminar assignments.

Module 3 is assessed through a take-home exam and a seminar presentation.

Module 4 is assessed through a take-home exam and three seminar assignments.

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.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

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 must have shown unacceptable results.

The seminar assignments of module 1 and module 4, as well as seminar assignment II on module 2 are exempted from the grading scale above. The grades awarded for these components are Pass or Fail. For the grade Pass, the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail, the student must have shown unacceptable results.

The grade for module 1 is determined by the student's results on the written exam.

The grade for module 2 is determined by the student's results on the written exam (weighted as 60%) and seminar assignment I (weighted as 40%).

The grade for module 3 is determined by the student's results on the take-home exam (weighted as 80%) and the seminar presentation (weighted as 20%).

The grade on module 4 is determined by the student's results on the take-home exam.

The grade on the course as a whole is determined by a weighting of the student's results on the different modules, in which all modules are weighted equally. The weighting of the grades on the modules to produce a final grade on the whole course is based on a mathematical formula in which the letter grades are translated into the following figures-- A=5.0; B=4.0; C=3.5; D=3.0 and E=2.5-- on which an average for the assessed components is calculated. The figures are rounded down, except for the grade A in which case 4.5 and above is rounded up to an A.

At the start of the course, the student about the intended learning outcomes of the course syllabus as well as about the grading scale and its application are informed in the course.

Entry requirements

General and courses corresponding to the following Swedish Upper Secondary School Programs: Social Studies 1b/1a1 + 1a2

Further information

The course may not be included in a degree together with SGEA10 Human Geography: Level 1 (30 credits), SGEA14 Human Geography: Global Challenges (15 credits) and SGEA15 Human Geography: Cities, Landscapes and Regions (15 credits), SGEA01 Human Geography: Level 1 (30 credits), SGEA02 Human Geography: Level 1 (30 credits) or SGEA10 Human Geography: Level 1 (30 credits).

Subcourses in SGEA20, Human Geography: Level 1

Applies from H19

- 1901 Human Geography: An Introduction, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1902 Economic Geography, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1903 Landscape Change, Urbanization and Geography of Society, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1904 Global Challenges: Resources, Environment, Political Economy, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A

Applies from V16

- 1501 Human Geography: An Introduction, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1502 Global Challenges: Resources, Environment, Political Economy, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1503 Landscape Change, Urbanization and Geography of Society, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1504 Economic Geography, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A