

SGEA23, Human Geography: Level 2, 30 credits

Samhällsgeografi: Fortsättningskurs, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Human Geography on 2015-06-15 and was last revised on 2023-05-02 by The Board of the Department of Human Geography. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2024-09-02 and is valid from the autumn semester 2024.

General information

The course is given as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: Swedish and English

Main field of study

Specialisation

Human
Geography

G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student should be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- knowledge of economic development and its societal effects in different geographic contexts through the use of concepts, theories and models,
- knowledge of urban development from a geographic perspective,
- basic understanding of scientific methods and GIS (geographic information systems),

Competence and skills

- the ability to apply theoretical perspectives on concrete changes in the geography of the city,

- the ability to apply quantitative and qualitative methods,
- the ability to apply GIS,
- the ability to identify relevant research issues within the scope of the course,
- the ability to in collaboration with others, carry out individual studies and analyse collected material in both oral and written form,
- the ability to apply theories and models within the student's independently chosen field, applying relevant empirical methods and accounting for and discussing the implemented work in writing, in a well presented and scientific way,
- 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 select correct scientific referencing techniques,
- the ability to draw relevant conclusions from the research carried out,
- the ability to critically review and publicly discuss other students' work.

Judgement and approach

- the ability to reflect on ongoing public debates critically from a geographical perspective.

Course content

The course consists of four modules:

Module 1 The Region as an arena in economic development (7.5 credits)

Departing from the concept of the region as an arena for economic development, but also including broader meanings of the region as an arena where the daily lives and activities of people take place, the analysis is divided into four parts:

- a) Structures: The regional consequences of structural transformation; companies' basic dependence of the regional resource environment
- b) Systems: Business systems with special focus on clusters and regional innovation systems
- c) Strategies/Policy: The social and industrial strategies for regional development
- d) Social consequences/welfare/living conditions: Effects of the points a-c are analysed; purchasing power, labour market, living conditions in broader meaning.

Module 2 The social geography of the City (7.5 credits)

The module focuses on the contemporary urban geographical debate and deals with phenomena such as gentrification, segregation, social polarisation and social exclusion. These processes have occurred over a long time, but their nature has changed in connection with the ongoing de-industrialisation, the growth of a service economy, and increased international migration. With a background knowledge of these developments students are trained to review the contemporary debate in urban geographical issues. The literature consists partly of classical texts within the urban geographical field and partly of central present-day texts.

Module 3 Applied methods in planning (7.5 credits)

The aim of the course is to give basic knowledge in quantitative and qualitative methods. Special focus is given to GIS regarding both theoretical and practical aspects of its usage. This knowledge is then applied in exercises and in a final project work with a focus on urban and regional planning. In support of this work, students will be introduced to planning within different social contexts as well as some of the preconditions, challenges and changes that are faced in accordance with aspirations of the sustainable development of cities and regions. Field studies and excursions are included in this module.

Module 4 Degree project (7.5 credits)

The module intends to combine previous course content within an individual work. Through own research, students will obtain an increased knowledge of course themes by carrying out a study, analysing the collected material, and compiling it into an essay to be written either individually or in pairs. The essay is presented at a seminar, and the students discuss one another's essays.

Course design

The teaching is structured around lectures, exercises, field studies, seminars, field trips and thesis supervision. Attendance at exercises, seminars and field trips are compulsory unless there are special grounds. An alternative form or date for compulsory components is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed teaching because of activities as a student representative.

Assessment

The course is assessed through written and oral examinations. The assessments examine students on the teaching and literature material in accordance to the respective modules.

Module 1 is examined through two written seminar assignments and oral seminar presentations.

Module 2 is examined through one written take-home exam and two written seminar assignments.

Module 3 is examined through a written take-home exam, an individual written and oral seminar report, and a written group seminar assignment.

Module 4 is examined through a written essay and a review of other student's work.

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit in the same year. Two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the end 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 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.

Oral seminar assignments in module 1, seminar assignments module 2, and the student's defence of their own degree project and critical review of a fellow student's degree project on module 4 are exempted from the grading scale above. The grades awarded for these components are Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass, the student must show acceptable results.

Final grade on module 1 is determined by student's performance on the written seminar assignments (weighted 55% respectively 45 %).

Final grade on module 2 is determined by student's performance on the take-home exam.

Final grade on module 3 is determined by student's performance on the written home exam (weighted 35 %), the individual written and oral seminar report (weighted 35%), and the group's written seminar assignment (weighted 30%).

Final grade on module 4 is determined by student's performance on the degree project.

The calculation of the course grade for the whole course is based on the student's result on the four modules, where all modules are weighted equally. The conversion of the grades on the modules to a 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. The average for the modules is then calculated. Figures are rounded down, with the exception of the grade of A for which the figure of 4.5 and over is rounded up to A.

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

Entry requirements

To be eligible to take the course, the student must have completed course requirements of 22.5 credits in the course SGEA10 Human geography: Level 1, 1-30 credits or the course SGEA20 Human geography: Level 1, 1-30 credits, or the equivalent.

Further information

This course replaces SGEA22 Human geography: Level 2 course, 30 credits. The course cannot be included in a degree together with SGEA21 Human geography: Level 2, 30 credits or SGEA22 Human geography: Level 2, 30 credits.