



Faculty of Social Sciences

SGEK03, Human Geography: Bachelor Thesis, 30 credits

Samhällsgeografi: Kandidatkurs, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by The Board of the Department of Cultural Geography on 2016-02-02 and was last revised on 2016-05-03 by the board of the Department of Human Geography. . The revised syllabus applied from 2016-08-28. , autumn semester 2016.

General Information

The course is a freestanding course in human geography.

Language of instruction: Swedish and English

Main field of studies

Human Geography

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G2E, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements, contains degree project for BA/BSc

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- knowledge and understanding of the disciplinary foundation of human geography
- knowledge of current research issues in human geography
- knowledge of applicable methods in human geography, such as geographic information systems (GIS)
- specialised knowledge within one of the fields cultural geography and economic geography
- understanding of the research terminology of human geography
- understanding of how the choice of method affects research results

Competence and skills

- ability to apply and assess different techniques of qualitative and quantitative analysis
- ability to independently identify, formulate and analyse issues of human geography and select appropriate investigation techniques and theories
- ability to independently absorb and actively use texts within in one of the two fields cultural geography and economic geography
- ability to independently assimilate theories and models within their chosen area
- ability to apply relevant empirical methods to study the chosen topic
- ability to account for and discuss the completed dissertation in writing in a formally correct way, with good structure and a scholarly approach
- ability to draw relevant conclusions from the completed investigation
- ability to orally present and defend their degree project
- ability to apply correct academic referencing
- ability to independently seek relevant information, critically analyse and evaluate the information and its sources, and effectively communicate the results

Judgement and approach

- ability to assess validity and reliability in investigations
- skills to critically review, assess and publicly discuss the degree dissertation of a fellow student
- ability to make assessments in human geography informed by relevant disciplinary, societal and ethical issues
- ability to critically reflect on the role of social geography research in society

Course content

The course consists of three modules as follows:

Module 1 Research Methodology (7.5 credits)

The module aims to enable the students to increase their knowledge of research methodology and apply a number of different investigation and analysis techniques, and understand the effects of different methods on data and research results. The module includes training in both qualitative and quantitative methods, and geographic information systems (GIS).

Module 2 Specialisation: Developments within Geography (7.5 credits)

The aim of the module is to provide students with specialised knowledge within one of the specialisations of human geography. The student can choose to specialise in either cultural geography or economic geography. The presentation and choice of specialisation are made during module 1. The reading list is partly made up of a set number of titles, and partly of independently selected texts. The specialised study can be used as a basis for the degree project in module 3.

Module 3 Bachelor's Degree Project (15 credits)

The aim of the module is to train the students to plan, delimit, execute, report and critically review an independent, written degree dissertation.

Course design

The teaching on module 1 and 2 consists of lectures, laboratory sessions and seminars.

In module 3, the student is to execute an independent degree project in a field that is to be determined in consultation with the supervisor. The degree project is to be written individually, but work in pairs can be permitted if there are special reasons. The module also includes the critical review of a fellow student's degree dissertation. The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and supervision.

Attendance at seminars is 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 assessment is based on written and oral exams. It includes the teaching and required reading of each module. All assessed components must be passed.

Module 1, Research Methodology, is assessed on the basis of five written assignments.

Module 2:1, Cultural Geography, is assessed on the basis of three written assignments and a written take-home exam.

Module 2:2, Economic Geography, is assessed on the basis of three written assignments.

Module 3, Bachelor's Degree Project, is assessed on the basis of a written degree project, defence of the project at a seminar and critical review of a fellow student's degree project. The degree project is to be registered in an open access database on a server owned by Lund University. The student independently chooses the level of access.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Within a year of the end of the course, two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

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 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 must have shown unacceptable results.

Two written assignments in module 1 (Research Methodology), three written assignments in module 2:1 (Cultural Geography), and the students' defence of their own degree project and critical review of a fellow student's degree project on module 3 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. For the grade of Fail, the student must have shown unacceptable results.

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.

Calculation of grades on modules

Module 1: The grade on the module is determined by the three assignments awarded the grades A to E and Fail. The conversion of the grades on the three written assignments to a grade on the module is based on a mathematical formula in which the sum of the results of the assignments is translated into a percentage of the total number of points available for the module. The scale is the following:

90-100% = A
 80-89% = B
 70-79% = C
 60-69% = D
 50-59% = E

Letter grades are translated into figures in the following manner: A=5.0; B=4.0; C=3.5; D=3.0 and E=2.5. The total number of points is converted into a percentage figure $[(\text{Total points})/(\text{Maximum points}) * 100]$. The maximum number of points is 15. The minimum number of points is 7.5.

Module 2:1: The grade on the module is determined by grade on the take-home exam.

Module 2:2: The three written assignments are weighted equally when grading, i.e. 33% each, using the same mathematical formula as in module 1.

Module 3: The degree project determines the grade on the module.

Calculation of the grade on the whole course

The calculation of the grade on the whole course is based on the mathematical formula described under module 1. Module 1 and 2 are to account for 25 % each of the grade on the whole course and module 3 for 50%. Figures are rounded down, in accordance with the board decision of 24 September 2012.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have passed 22.5 credits of SGEA23 Human Geography: Level 2, 30 credits, SGEA21 Human Geography: Level 2, 1-30 credits, or SGEA22 Human Geography: Level 2, 1-30 credits, or the equivalent

Further information

This course replaces SGEK02 Human Geography: Bachelor Thesis, 30 credits. The course may not be included in a degree together with SGEK01 Human Geography: Bachelor Thesis, 30 credits, or SGEK02 Human Geography: Bachelor Thesis, 30 credits

Subcourses in SGEK03, Human Geography: Bachelor Thesis

Applies from H16

- 1601 Research methods, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1602 Lines of Development within Geography, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1603 Independent Study, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A