



Faculty of Social Sciences

## **SIMM24, Social Sciences: Social Studies of Science and Other Forms of Knowledge, 7.5 credits**

*Social Sciences: Social Studies of Science and Other Forms of Knowledge, 7,5 högskolepoäng*  
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus is an old version, approved by the Programme Committee for GDG-SM on 2012-06-14 and was valid from 2012-09-03, autumn semester 2012.

### **General Information**

The course is offered as an interdisciplinary single subject course in Social Science at the second-cycle level and as an optional course within the Master of Science Programmes.

*Language of instruction:* English

<i>Main field of studies</i>	<i>Depth of study relative to the degree requirements</i>
Social Work	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Education	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Sociology of Law	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Political Science	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Development Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Human Geography	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Gender Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Media and Communication Studies	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

Sociology

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

## Learning outcomes

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

### Knowledge and understanding

Identify and demonstrate their understanding of the different and distinct traditions within the broad field of Social Studies of Science, which includes knowledge from the natural and social sciences, humanities, but importantly also various knowledge types that have been labeled practical, indigenous, lay knowledge, and so forth.

Demonstrate their understanding of the field of Social Studies of Science, its different traditions, their implications, as well as of neighbors to the field which highlight further types of knowledge areas than (natural) science.

Clarify and demonstrate their understanding of fundamental concepts in Social Studies of Science, such as representation and representational practices

### Competence and skills

Critically assess research within the field of Social Studies of Science, relating their assessment to broader issues, such as knowledge production, research controversies, diverse "ways of seeing" within different knowledge areas, and what constitutes knowledge-producing work.

Show their skills as regards the implementation of a broad social-studies-of-science perspective

### Judgement and approach

Reflect upon and comprehensively discuss the importance of social context and the community for the development of knowledge production

## Course content

The aim of the course is to provide an overview of the cross-disciplinary field of Social Studies of Science. Importantly, this field as well as its neighbouring fields (e.g. sociology, gender studies, political science) will be elucidated in order to provide a wider picture of what in this course is called Social Studies of Science and Other Forms of Knowledge. This wider field deals with knowledge production as a practical, historical and conceptual activity, viewed in a social context and through the complex dynamic relationship between various types of knowledge production and society. The basic assumption of this course is that science itself can and should be studied from a critical social perspective. As the importance has grown of knowledge production and use, the need to study and critically question what constitutes knowledge production has also increased. What constitutes "relevant knowledge production" has consequences for the legitimacy of diverse "ways of seeing" within different societal realms, for understanding knowledge disputes and ultimately for perceptions of what constitutes valuable/ less valuable knowledge and important / less

important knowledge fields. These are some of the issues that will be discussed within the framework for this course.

## Course design

The course will be given in the form of lectures and seminars. After lectures on the history and development of the field of Social Studies of Science in a wide sense, the different and distinct fields will be presented in lectures by researchers, who actively work in these fields. Seminars will serve as a forum for discussion of both published research which has a broad Social Study of Science perspective as well as a forum for discussion of students' research questions and interests. Students are expected to have read and reflect upon relevant course material prior to lectures, as well as to come prepared to actively participate in seminars.

The language of instruction is English. Both lectures and seminars will be conducted in English. Examinations and other material are to be written in English.

## Assessment

Assessment is based on the following:

- Essay
- Written on-line seminar assignments
- Active participation in the course in its entirety.

Re-examination is offered after the end of the course. If necessary, a second re-examination is arranged at a later date. Examination opportunities will be given during the academic year only.

*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 grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. 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.

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 for the course the student must have 150 credits including a graded thesis for the degree of Bachelor or a completed major in the Social Sciences, or another equivalent subject.

In addition, the students must have a minimum average grade in their Bachelor's studies equivalent to 3.0 out of 4 in cumulated grade point average (CGPA), C in the ECTS grading scale, and B in the American grading scale. For students with Swedish undergraduate studies the minimum requirement is G.

English 6/ English B (advanced) proficiency, or the equivalent.

### **Further information**

The course was adopted by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on June 14, 2012, and the syllabus was approved by the Committee for International Programmes on June 14, 2012.

This syllabus is valid from the autumn term 2012.

The course cannot be included in a degree together with SIMM04 Social Studies of Sciences 7.5 credits or SIMM14 Social Studies of Sciences.

## Subcourses in SIMM24, Social Sciences: Social Studies of Science and Other Forms of Knowledge

Applies from H12

1201 Social Studies of Science and Other Forms of Knowledge, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A