SOCA26, Sociology: Sociology of Global Development and Sustainability, 30 credits

Sociologi: Global utvecklingssociologi och hållbar utveckling, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Sociology on 2018-11-27 and was last revised on 2023-03-09. The revised syllabus applies from 2023-08-28, autumn semester 2023.

General Information

The course is offered as a single subject course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies	Depth of study relative to the degree requirements
Sociology	G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding
- demonstrate a basic understanding of both classical and contemporary sociological and social sciences perspectives with regard to global social change (1)
- demonstrate knowledge of the historical and contemporary social processes that are in focus for classical and modern social sciences (2)
- be able to account for scholarly discussions about global development and sustainable development with regard to sociological phenomena (3)
- be able to adopt sociological perspectives to review solutions for social and ecological sustainability (4)
- demonstrate an understanding of key global challenges to society that are results

of increasing urbanisation and globalisation as well as of central social sciences perspectives and concepts that are used to analyse these processes (5)
- demonstrate basic knowledge of social sciences methods and their foundation in the theory of science (6)

Competence and skills
- be able to apply sociological analysis to different complex social problems and power dynamics (7)
- be able to apply sociological analysis to solutions for social and ecological sustainability in different contexts and fields (8)
- concretely and precisely be able to present acquired knowledge in speech and writing in a professional manner (9)
- demonstrate the ability to take a critical position on literature and independently seek and evaluate scholarly texts (10)
- be able to perform quantitative and qualitative social sciences analyses (11)
- use quantitative and qualitative methods to examine and critically evaluate different societal and sustainability issues (12)
- master basic reference management (13)

Judgement and approach
- be able to adopt a scholarly perspective to critically evaluate different local and global social situations (14)
- demonstrate an understanding of different groups' values, preferences and perspectives, and how they can be assessed in relation to each other (15)

Course content

The course provides a sociological perspective on economic, social and political processes, focusing especially on global social change and sustainable development. The aim is to enable students to acquire the knowledge required to understand and critically examine the discussions pursued about the global social change that marks modernity, focusing especially on the post-war period.

Module 1. Classical and Modern Social Analysis

The first module addresses classical and modern sociological theory, as well as the economic, social and political transformations in focus of classical sociology. Emphasis is placed on the processes leading up to the social transformations that are usually covered by the concept of modernity, such as the emergence of sovereign nation states, capitalism, bureaucracies, rationalisation and increasing division/differentiation of labour in and between countries. Furthermore, the module deals with the different theory of science positions originally developed in classical sociology but still marking the social sciences.

Module 2. Contemporary Sociological Perspectives on Global Development

The second module focuses on contemporary challenges to development in different parts of the world. It adopts both a macro and a micro perspective and deals with changes with regard to the role of the state, labour markets, population structures and families. Sociological theories and concepts are used to highlight how inequality is created and maintained by different power structures with regard to, for example, gender, sexuality, ethnicity and class, and intersections between them. The module

focuses on contemporary economic and political sociology, and feminist theory.

Module 3. Global Sustainability and Environmental Sociology

The module focuses on sustainability and environmental sociology. Based on the classical and contemporary theories addressed in the first module, the third module provides a specialisation in contemporary sociological perspectives on sustainability and environmental issues. It deals with different aspects of sustainability and discusses environmental challenges based on different perspectives of the theory of science and the social sciences, aiming to provide a detailed understanding of how environmental problems can be framed and understood from different social and political perspectives. Furthermore, the module considers different types of political and social action to achieve change, such as different political solutions and changes in consumption, everyday life/lifestyle.

Module 4. Social Sciences Methods

The module focuses on social sciences methods and aims to provide basic knowledge of statistical analysis and awareness of different methods of qualitative analysis. Furthermore, emphasis is placed on the operationalisation of issues and on the testing of different theories based on the course content.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, group work, seminars and supervision. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in seminars and group work. 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 been absent because of duties as an elected student representative. In case of absence, it is the responsibility of the student to contact and inform the course director.

Assessment

The assessment of module 1 (7.5 credits) is based on an individual invigilated exam (learning outcomes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14)

The assessment of module 2 (7.5 credits) is based on an individual invigilated exam (learning outcomes 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15)

The assessment of module 3 (7.5 credits) is based on an individual take-home exam (learning outcomes 1, 3, 4, 5,8, 9, 10, 12)

The assessment of module 4 (7.5 credits) is based on an individual take-home exam of 4 credits and a written group assignment of 3.5 credits (learning outcomes 6, 9, 11, 12, 13)

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses that have been completed during the academic year (catch-up exam). Within a year of a major change or discontinuation of the course, at least two further opportunities for assessment are offered on the same course content. 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.

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.

For a Pass on the whole course, the student must have been awarded at least the grade of E on all components. The grade for the whole course is determined in the following manner: The letter grades are converted into numbers as follows (A =5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2 and E = 1). The number of the grade is multiplied with the number of credits for the assessed component. The sums for each component are added up. The grand total is divided by the number of credits for the course (30). The range for this number (N) is 1- 5.

The grade for the whole course is determined in accordance with the following table:

N >= 4.5 = A

N >= 3.5 and =B

N >= 2.5 and =C

N >= 1.5 and =D

N >= 1 and = E

Entry requirements

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

Further information

The course replaces SOCB29 Sociology: Managing Sustainability, Society and Collective Behaviour, 15 credits, and SOCB26 Sociology: The Sociology of Human Development, 15 credits.

A general exemption from the requirement of proficiency in Swedish is applied.

Subcourses in SOCA26, Sociology: Sociology of Global Development and Sustainability

Applies from H22

2201   Classical and modern social analysis, 7,5 hp
    Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
2202   Global development, 7,5 hp
    Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
2203   Global Sustainability, 7,5 hp
    Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
2204   Social Science methodology: individually exam, 4,0 hp
    Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
2205   Social Science methodology: group work, 3,5 hp
    Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A

Applies from H19

1901   Classical and modern social analysis, 7,5 hp
    Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
1902   Global development, 7,5 hp
    Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
1903   Global Sustainability, 7,5 hp
    Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
1904   Social Science methodology: written exam, 4,0 hp
    Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
1905   Social Science methodology: group work, 3,5 hp
    Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A