

## **SOCN08, Sociology: Knowledge and Social Change, 7.5 credits**

*Sociologi: Kunskap och social förändring, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

**Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Sociology on 2024-09-26. The syllabus comes into effect 2024-10-14 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

### **General information**

The course is offered as a freestanding course and as a compulsory course in the Master's programme in sociology, 120 credits.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of  
study*

*Specialisation*

Sociology

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

### **Learning outcomes**

For the grade of Pass on the course, the students shall be able to:

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- demonstrate advanced understanding of key theories and concepts in the field of sociology of knowledge
- demonstrate advanced understanding of the conceptual, epistemological and methodological dimensions to study issues in the sociology of knowledge empirically
- demonstrate advanced understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of subjects that concern the production, dissemination and consumption of knowledge

## Competence and skills

- demonstrate advanced ability to use sociological theory to analyse broad patterns in the production, dissemination and consumption of knowledge
- demonstrate advanced ability to formulate independent, coherent arguments around the production, dissemination and consumption of knowledge in specific contexts
- demonstrate advanced ability to compile and critically review information and positions in the public debate about scientific and non-scientific knowledge

## Judgement and approach

- show awareness of the possibilities and limitations of knowledge sociology in the study of the production, dissemination and consumption of knowledge
- demonstrate a reflexive approach to their own development of knowledge

## Course content

The course covers how knowledge of various subjects is produced, disseminated and received in different parts of society. It covers knowledge production, dissemination and consumption within science, public discourse and everyday life. The course is based on a wide understanding of knowledge and concerns knowledge about such things as social and environmental problems, political and economic questions, ethics and spirituality. The course also covers some examples of patterns for knowledge production and knowledge dissemination, e.g. they that are run by top controlled policy social movements, popular culture, the academic world and in the intersection between technology and capitalist entrepreneurship. Furthermore, the very concept of knowledge is examined and it is for example set against faith, facts and conspiracy theories. Finally, a reflexive approach is taken, where the student is encouraged to reflect on "the knowledge sociology" as a knowledge producing activity in itself.

## Course design

Teaching consists of lectures and seminars. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, participation in seminars is compulsory. The opportunity to compensate for or resit compulsory components will be offered to a student who has been unable to participate due to circumstances beyond their control such as accidents, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed teaching sessions due to work as a student representative.

## Assessment

The assessment is through an individual take-home exam. The course includes opportunities for assessment at the first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses that have ended during that academic year (catch-up exam). At least two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the course being discontinued or undergoing a major revamp. 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 unacceptable results is Fail. The student's results are assessed based on 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 show unacceptable results. At the start of the course, the student is informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and the grading scale, and how this is applied during the course.

## Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires 90 credits in a social sciences subject in sequential courses. English 6.