

## **SOCN09, Sociology: Emerging Inequalities, 7.5 credits**

*Sociologi: Nya ojämlikheter, 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 a pass grade on the course, the students are to be able to

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- demonstrate advanced knowledge of sociological theory relevant for understanding various forms of inequality
- demonstrate advanced understanding of the social mechanisms that generate and maintain different forms of inequality, and the complex interplay between them
- demonstrate advanced understanding of the epistemological, ethical and methodological aspects of the empirical study of different forms of inequality in different contexts.

## Competence and skills

- demonstrate an advanced ability to apply sociological theories and concepts to current debates about, and examples of, inequality
- demonstrate an advanced ability to synthesise and critically review theoretical and empirical material relating to inequality.

## Judgement and approach

- demonstrate an advanced ability to reflect on the possibilities and limitations associated with sociological perspectives on inequality
- demonstrate an advanced ability to assess when and in what way sociological perspectives can and should be integrated with other disciplines in the study of inequality.

## Course content

The course covers current patterns of inequality in the light of contemporary social and welfare state transformations. Based on current debates about increasing inequality in Western societies, the course combines theoretical perspectives, current data and case studies to give the student advanced understanding of various forms of inequalities and how the emergence of these can be related to political economy, the labour market and welfare state transformations.

The course starts with an introduction to the concept of inequality and its different dimensions, such as between social classes, across geographical areas, between rural and urban, women and men, and young and old. Thereafter, the course covers how inequalities can be studied on the macro, meso and micro levels by using sociological theories and methods.

Based on the initial conceptualisation of inequality, the course continues with analysis of how patterns of inequality arise, reproduce and change. Among other things, cumulative processes are examined, such as how housing segregation and labour market segmentation reproduce inequality and marginalisation of social classes and demographic groups in modern society. In a final case study, acquired knowledge is applied to the "Swedish model" with an aim to examine in more detail the connections between welfare state transformations and multidimensional inequalities.

## Course design

The 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 students who have 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

Assessment is through an individually written take-home exam.

The course offers a first examination, a resit close to the first examination and a second resit for courses that have ended during that academic year (catch-up exam). At least two further resits on the same course content are offered within a year of the course being discontinued or undergoing a major change.

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 has shown 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 comprising sequential courses. English 6.