



Faculty of Social Sciences

SOCN10, Sociology: Sociological Perspectives on Sustainability Transitions, 7.5 credits

Sociologi: Sociologiska perspektiv på hållbarhetsomställningar, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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 an understanding of current, previous and possible future sustainability transitions
- demonstrate advanced understanding of the sociological aspects of the systemic and complex nature of sustainability transitions
- demonstrate advanced understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of sustainability issues.

Competence and skills

- demonstrate an advanced ability to apply classical and modern sociological theories and concepts to different aspects of sustainability transitions
- demonstrate an advanced ability to independently formulate developed and coherent arguments about societal stability and change in connection with sustainability.

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate an ability to assess when and in what way sociological approaches can and should be integrated with other disciplines
- demonstrate an advanced ability to critically evaluate and compile information from different sources related to sustainability transitions
- demonstrate an advanced ability to evaluate the epistemological, ethical and methodological dimensions of studying sustainability transitions.

Course content

The course explores the sociological aspects of sustainability with a special focus on the systemic, socio-technical and complex characteristics of sustainability transitions. The course starts by introducing the students to the multi-faceted nature of sustainability challenges and the dynamics between societal stability and change. The foundations of societal stability are highlighted by means of concepts such as path dependency, socio-technical systems, lock-in, procedures, institutions and institutionalisation. Thereafter, the driving forces behind social changes are examined such as extreme events, innovations, political interventions, social movements and cultural changes. Classical and contemporary sociological theory is used to conceptualise and explain current challenges and possibilities related to sustainability. Finally, the course examines empirical, sociologically relevant research about sustainability transitions. Examples of interdisciplinary approaches and innovative research methods are given to illustrate the complexity of different sustainability challenges. Using this approach, the student gains an overall understanding of the role of sociology in its interdisciplinary context as well as tools to examine and create a knowledge base to manage society's sustainability transitions.

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 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

The course is examined through an individually written on-campus 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 sufficient 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.