



Faculty of Social Sciences

SOCM05, Sociology: Master's (Two years) Thesis, 30 credits

Sociologi: Examensarbete för masterexamen, 30 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Sociology on 2023-05-25 and was last revised on 2024-03-07. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2024-03-11 and is valid from the autumn semester 2024.

General information

The course is given in the master's programme in sociology (SASCO), 120 credits and as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: Swedish and English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

Sociology A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Learning outcomes

For a Pass on the course, the students are to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate advanced knowledge in sociological theory and theory construction
- demonstrate specialised insight in methodology and the theory of science
- identify and formulate research issues
- assimilate, analyse, critically review and compare theoretical texts
- demonstrate an understanding of various questions that concern the modern society e.g. processes of change, social structures and interaction patterns

Competence and skills

- plan and, using adequate methods and theories, carry out and present an independent research project within a given time frame and evaluate their own work
- perform a critical review of another independent degree project
- demonstrate knowledge of research communication and independently monitor knowledge development within the subject

Judgement and approach

- make assessments of research and development, informed by relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of sociology and its role in society
- identify their own needs for further knowledge and take responsibility for their ongoing learning

Course content

The aim of the course is to provide students with specialised knowledge of sociological theory and enable a good ability to participate in research and development or work in other qualified contexts. The main component of the course is the student's composition of an academic paper. In the academic paper, a strong emphasis is placed on the ability to independently identify and formulate a sociological issue and actively follow development and research in the field that the issues concern. The course concludes with a seminar during which the degree project is defended and a critical review of another student's degree project is included.

Course design

The teaching consists of supervision and seminars. The supervisor provides the student with advice and views on the design of the degree project. The student is responsible for carrying out the degree project. The completed degree project is to be reviewed and discussed at an assessed seminar by a specially appointed critical reviewer.

Assessment

The course is examined through a degree project, 30 credits and critical review, 0 credits. This takes place in a joint examination seminar.

The hours for supervision are restricted to the semester in which the student was initially registered. Exceptions can be made if there are valid reasons.

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-examination close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses completed in the past year (catch-up exam). Within a year after a major change to the course or its cancellation, 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 number of occasions when students can have their thesis assessed is limited to five.

The degree project is to be registered in an Open Access database belonging to Lund University. Each student determines their own level of publication.

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 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 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 will have shown insufficient results.

The component 'critical review' is excepted from the grading scale above. 0 credits
The grades awarded for this module are Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of fail, the student will have shown insufficient 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

For admission to the course a Bachelor's degree in sociology or equivalent is required, plus 30 second-cycle credits in sociology or the equivalent, as well as 30 second cycle credits in research methodology and/or theory of knowledge (of which at least 15 credits in methodology) at second-cycle.

Further information

The course replaces SOCM04 Sociology: Master (Two Years) Thesis, 30 credits.