



## SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

### **General Social Science Theory, 7,5 higher education credits**

Generell samhällsvetenskapliga teori, 7,5 högskolepoäng,

*Third Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

The course syllabus was confirmed by the School of Global Studies on 2015-06-09 to be valid from 2015-06-09.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* School of Global Studies

#### **Position in the Educational System**

The course is a compulsory course in the Peace and Development Research programme. It is also offered to students from other third cycle programmes as a single subject course.

#### **Entry Requirements**

In order to be eligible for the course the applicant must fulfil the general entry requirements for third cycle studies. A good command of English is vital. Requirements are: Swedish Gymnasium Engelska B with at least a Pass mark, or a valid test of English as a foreign language, or alternatively a Bachelor's degree taken in English.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

After completion of the course, the student is expected to be able to:

##### *Knowledge and understanding*

- identify issues and debates around key questions of social science theory;

##### *Skills and abilities*

- give a cogent analysis of key questions of social science theory;
- present arguments in writing about key questions of social science theory;

##### *Judgement and approach*

- evaluate normative aspects of contending positions on key questions of social science theory
- assess the implications of different positions on key questions of social science theory for their own research.

## **Course Content**

The course runs over five consecutive weeks. Each week is devoted to a core question of social science theory, such as:

- the relationship between agency and structure in social relations
- linear and complex constructions of social explanation
- the nature of, and relationship between, various scales of social relations
- the role of ideational and material forces in social relations
- the relationship between knowledge and action in social research

Of course other topics might be highlighted also, such as the nature-society nexus, the role of culture in academic knowledge, and so on. The exact content will be determined in dialogue with the students.

## **Form of Teaching**

The course is taught with a mix of lectures, group discussions, individual readings, and written assignments.

*Language of instruction:* English

## **Assessment**

Students demonstrate that they achieve the above course aims through writing a weekly 3-page essay on the topic at hand. The paper should briefly: (a) identify the main issues and debates on the subject; (b) indicate the student's own position on the question; and (c) consider what this position implies for the student's approach to their own research.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary.

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

## **Grades**

The grading scale comprises Pass (G) and Fail (U). To be awarded a Pass grade for the course requires that all papers meet the criteria for a Pass grade.

## **Course Evaluation**

Student evaluation of the course occurs through a special discussion with the conveners after the five weeks are completed. Students are also encouraged to offer their feedback at any time during the course.