



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Social Studies

1SH150 Globala frågor I, 30 högskolepoäng
Global Issues I, 30 credits

Main field of study

Sociology

Subject

Sociology

Level

First cycle

Progression

G1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2014-10-29.

Revised 2025-06-18. Revision of literature

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2025.

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for university studies.

Objectives

After completing the course the student should be able to:

- analyse, contrast and compare different perspectives on global issues,
- comprehend the theoretical and empirical notions of global issues, in particular issues such as globalization, democratization, international law and the transformations of the world economy,
- discuss and define these issues as concepts and phenomena, and

- identify global issues in our contemporary world.

Content

The course consists of four modules.

Perspectives on Globalization 7.5 credits

Globalization has become a key concept and a whole explanatory dimension in Social Sciences in recent years. This is in part due to increasing exchanges within the economic, political, and cultural life in the world. The students will explore the process of globalization in view of various economical, political and cultural perspectives. Furthermore, analyses of the nature of the contemporary global changes and their dividing and uniting forces will be carried out. The impact of globalization on the development of democracy and the nation state, the evolution of the international system and the pursuit of human rights, the social consequences of globalization and the creation of a globalized culture will be discussed.

International law and human rights 7.5 credits

This course focuses on two broad themes. The first part concerns international law and how relations between states are regulated in international agreements and conventions. This also includes the role of international organisations, especially the United Nations. Questions that are addressed concern differences between international and national law, how international law is implemented, to what extent do states comply and what is the role of institutions in achieving legal compliance. The course further discusses the nature and sources of international law. The second part further deals with human rights and its legal dimension, and with economic, social, and cultural rights in international law. Here, and throughout the course, European law plays a prominent role (in a comparative perspective) not least due to the important role of the European convention on human rights in international law and the European Union due to its developed system of multilevel governance. Special emphasis is given to the protection and promotion of human rights in a global perspective and the comparison of different basic rights and principles in international and European law.

Democratization in the World 7.5 credits

The main objective of the course is to introduce concepts, theoretical perspectives and empirical findings of research into democratization. The module begins with a discussion on core concepts, definitions and theories that frame the research on democratization. This discussion includes democracy as political rights and civil liberties, democratization as a phenomenon, processes and phases and identified favourable and unfavourable factors to democratization in the world. The second part of the module explores historical and contemporary trends of democratization in the world.

Transformations of the world economy 7.5 credits

The economy is central in understanding the transformations of the world. Political economy deals with issues such as inflation, unemployment, trade, welfare promotion, poverty, external shocks such as financial crises, recession, energy supply, and environmental problems. The module will discuss the role(s) the economy and the market plays in relation to the state and civil society in the transformations of the world. In this module we will discuss varieties of capitalism and welfare systems, political aspects of the workings of economy and raise questions of world economic order and the transformations of the world economy.

Type of Instruction

Teaching consists of lectures, seminars and other assignments. Participation in seminars is mandatory.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E or F.

Examination of the course takes place by means of oral and written exams and active participation in class.

The grade A constitutes the highest grade on the scale and the remaining grades follow in descending order where the grade E is the lowest grade on the scale that will result in a pass. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as fail. Fx is not a grade and is only applied when a student is allowed to supplement their examination. Students who fail to receive the grade of Pass (i.e. they have received the grade of F) at the scheduled examination date will have the opportunity to retake the exam close to the original exam date.

Resit examination is offered in accordance with Linnaeus University's Local regulations for courses and examination at the first- and second-cycle levels.

In the event that a student with a disability is entitled to special study support, the examiner will decide on adapted or alternative examination arrangements.

Course Evaluation

A course evaluation should be conducted during the course or in connection with its conclusion. The results and analysis of the completed course evaluation should be promptly communicated to students who have completed the course. Students participating in the next course instance should be informed of the results of the previous course evaluation and any improvements that have been made, no later than at the start of the course.

Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following course/courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course:
1SH130, 30 credits.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Perspectives on Globalization 7.5 credits

Baldwin, R. (Latest edition). *The great convergence: Information technology and the new globalization*. The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, (150 pages).

Graeber, David, and David Wengrow. (2021). *The dawn of everything: A new history of humanity*. Penguin UK, (350 pages).

Harari, Yuval. Noah. (2011). *Sapiens: A brief history of humankind*. London: Vintage Books. (380 pages).

International Law and human rights 7.5 credits

Dixon, Martin (Latest edition). *Textbook on International Law*. Oxford, Oxford University Press (432 pages).

Berry, Elspeth; Homewood, Matthew J.; Bogusz, Barbara (senaste upplagan). *Complete EU Law, Text, Cases, and Materials*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, (736 pages).

Smith, Rhona K.M. (Latest edition). *Textbook on International Human Rights*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (446 pages.).

Articles (to be downloaded via the LNU-library) 100 pages.

Democratization in the World 7.5 credits

Applebaum, Anne (Latest edition). *Autocracy Inc.: The dictators who want to run the world*. Allan Lane (228 pages).

Haerpfer, Christian, et. al (2018). *Democratization* (2nd Edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press. (476 pages).

Kendall-Taylor, A., Lindstaedt, N., & Frantz, E. (2019). *Democracies and Authoritarian Regimes*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780198820819

Articles (to be downloaded via the LNU-library). (200 pages).

Transformations of the world economy 7.5 credits

Garland, David (latest edition). *The Welfare state: a very short introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (153 pages).

Hass, Jeffrey Kenneth (latest edition). *Economic sociology: an introduction*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. (256 pages).

Smil, Vaclav (2021). *Grand Transitions: How the Modern World Was Made*. Oxford University Press. (371 pages).

Articles (400 pages) will be posted on MyMoodle.