



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Social Studies

1SO220 Lokal samhällsutveckling, 7,5 högskolepoäng

1SO220 Community Development, 7.5 credits

### **Main field of study**

Sociology

### **Subject Group**

Sociology

### **Level of classification**

First Level

### **Progression**

G1F

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved by Faculty of Social Sciences 2022-12-19

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2023

### **Prerequisites**

1-45 credits in peace and development studies, social sciences or relevant subject within the field of humanities.

## Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- identify and compare needs-based, rights-based and asset-based approaches to community development used in different urban and rural community contexts in the Global South as well as the Global North,
- understand and explain aspects of the professional and institutional context of community development,
- identify and discuss a range of theoretical concepts and goals in community development practice, such as community, civil society, empowerment, solidarity, economic opportunities, and social justice,
- undertake a literature review to organise theoretical ideas from the scientific literature to support the analysis of community issues,
- collect relevant statistical, qualitative and sensory data and analyse them to understand and explain community-level issues.

## Content

This course examines the theory and practice of working with local communities to achieve sustainable development. Communities are usually considered in terms of some spatially-defined territory, and territorially based community development has become a standard broad approach in urban and rural settings in the EU and in international development co-operation. Territorial notions of community are examined critically in comparison with other kinds of community, such as communities of identity or of interest.

The course emphasises the institutional context of community development in the Global North and the Global South, as many of the constraints and opportunities for successful community development derive from other levels of governance. It compares the theories underlying different traditions of practice that have developed over the last century, such as rights-based, needs-based, and assets-based approaches to development. This allows a deeper engagement with important themes such as empowerment and intervention, collective agency, community and individual identity, and power and institutions.

### Type of Instruction

Teaching consists of lectures, supervised group work, seminars and field studies.

### Examination

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

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 formally not a grade and is only used when a student is allowed to supplement their examination.

In order to receive a grade of Pass in the course, all the objectives must be fulfilled. Criteria for assessment on the A-F scale are provided in writing in connection with the start of the course, at the latest, as well as information about the weighted assessment of individual examination elements for the final grade in the course.

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.

The examination of the course takes place by means of a written group assignment, an individual assignment and an oral presentation.

A retake of the examination is provided in accordance with the Local Regulations for First-Cycle and Second-Cycle Courses and Examination at Linnaeus University.

Should the university determine that a student is entitled to special educational support due to impairment, the examiner may provide the student with an adapted test or the student may carry out the examination in an alternative way.

### Course Evaluation

A course evaluation is carried out either during or at the end of the course. Results and analysis of the evaluation are presented to the students who have completed the course as well as to new students at the following course date. The course evaluation is conducted anonymously.

## Other

Any additional costs that may arise in connection with the field studies are paid for by the students themselves.

## Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Westoby, Peter (2014) *Theorising the practice of community development: A South African perspective*. London: Routledge (202 pages) ISBN 978113827273.

Henderson, Paul (2010) *Community development and civil society: Making connections in the European context*. Portland, OR: Policy Press. (225 pages) ISBN 9781847428592.

Approximately 200 pages of peer-reviewed journal articles and professional reports, accessed through the university library.