



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Department of Cultural Sciences

2KG30E Kulturgeografi III, 30 högskolepoäng
Human Geography III, 30 credits

Main field of study

Human Geography

Subject Group

Cultural and Social Geography

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G2E

Date of Ratification

Approved 2009-12-02

Revised 2015-06-18 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2015

Prerequisites

Human Geography 1-60 credits or the equivalent.

Objectives

After completing the course, the students should be able to:

- compare and summarise issues and debates in human geography, focusing on contemporary society,
- evaluate and summarise literature within a limited area relevant to human geography,
- write and discuss a thesis in which the problems, theories and methods of the study are connected to human geography.

Module 1 Theory and Methodology in Human Geography 7.5 credits

After completing the module, the student should be able to:

- account for and evaluate various theoretical perspectives,
- account for and discuss the impact of various current social and cultural anthropological tendencies on the development of theories and the use of methods in human geography,
- account for and evaluate some method for retrieving and analysing data, including ethical aspects,
- select and evaluate a research plan for a project in human geography.

Module 2 Thematic Specialization in Human Geography 7.5 credits

After completing the module, the student should be able to:

- independently retrieve, evaluate, select and summarise research results within a limited problem area relevant to human geography,
- independently identify, formulate and motivate research questions in human geography,
- discuss ideas and problems with people outside their own university when formulating their research overview and research questions.

Module 3 Thesis 15 credits

After completing the module, the student should be able to:

- independently formulate and define research questions relevant to human geography in relation to relevant theories, methods and previous results,
- independently select, apply and critically evaluate appropriate theories and methods,
- systemically collect, select and critically evaluate material and sources,
- constructively and critically discuss their own and other students' texts in seminars,
- identify, apply and reflect on relevant research ethics and norms.

Content

The course consists of three modules.

Module 1 Theory and Methodology in Human Geography 7.5 credits

This module discusses the history of ideas in the subject, focusing on how contemporary theoretical debates such as Marxist, feminist, post-structuralist and post-modern human geography have been and are expressed in problems, theories and methods in human geography. Some relevant method for retrieving and analysing data is studied in-depth, from a qualitative perspective. Reflexive and critical thinking is emphasised, regarding both Swedish and international key texts. By the end of the module, the student should have formulated a research plan.

Module 2 Thematic Specialization in Human geography 7.5 credits

This module includes in-depth studies of a subject area in human geography, focusing on how the subject is covered in current research and debates in society. The student chooses a problem area in consultation with the teacher, and is given the opportunity to conduct in-depth studies of and reflect on how the problem area has been covered in research in human geography. The module includes an excursion with the aim of making the problems more concrete and in which the students can discuss ideas and problems with people at or outside the university. By the end of the module, the student should have written a research overview and formulated a research question.

Module 3 Thesis 15 credits

In this module the students practise their ability to independently plan, conduct and present a scientifically based study relevant to human geography by using theories and methods in human geography. The study is presented in a paper. The students also practise their ability to communicate by critically examining, reflecting on and discussing their own and others' work in seminars.

Attendance in seminars, exercises and excursions is compulsory.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, seminars, group work and excursions. Attendance in seminars, exercises and excursions is compulsory.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction

(VG).

In order to receive the grade of Pass, the intended learning outcomes must be achieved. In order to receive the grade of Pass with Distinction, the student must have received the grade of Pass with Distinction for at least 22.5 of 30 credits.

Some seminars might be part of the examination of the course (students are informed about this when the course starts). These seminars include oral presentations of literature or submission of memoranda. Such presentations/submissions might replace a written examination on a specified part of the course literature (students are informed about this when the course starts).

The student writes an essay during the course. The student's performance is assessed in the form of written tests and oral presentations, as well as an independent project/thesis.

For students who do not pass the first examinations, retake examinations are provided in accordance with local regulations at the university.

Course Evaluation

At the end of the course, a course evaluation is conducted and compiled into a report, which is made available to students and filed and stored according to departmental regulations.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

List of references Module 1 - Theory and Methodology in Human Geography 7.5 credits

Required Reading

Nayak, Anoop & Alex, Jeffrey (2011) *Geographical Thought: An introduction to Ideas in Human Geography*. Harlow: Pearson Education. 337 p. ISBN: 978013 2228244.

Gren, Martin, Hallin, PO, Molina, Irene (eds) (2000) *Kulturens plats/Maktens rum*. Eslöv: Symposion. 280 p. ISBN 9171394850

Hubbard, Phil, Kitchin, Rob & Valentine, Gill (eds) (2008) *Key Texts in Human Geography*. London: Sage. 236 p. ISBN: 9781412922616.

Schough, Katarina (2002) *Svensk kulturgeografi och feminism: Rötter och rörelser i en rumslog disciplin*. Karlstad University Studies 2002:3. Karlstad: Karlstad University, Department of Social Sciences, Human Geography. 215 p. ISBN 9189422 686.

In consultation with the examiner, one of the following books is chosen:

Brink, Margo van den & Metze, Tamara (eds) (2006) *Words matter in policy and planning: discourse theory and method in the social sciences*. Utrecht: Koninklijk Nederlands Aardrijkskundig Genootschap. 182 p. ISBN: 9068093851.

Crang, Mike & Cook, Ian (2007) *Doing ethnographies*. London: SAGE. 244 p. ISBN 076194446X (pbk)

Additional Study Material

Aitken, Stuart & Valentine, Gill (eds) (2006). *Approaches to Human Geography*. London: Sage. 349 p. ISBN: 9780761942634.

Danermark, Berth, Ekström, Mats, Jakobsen, Liselotte & Karlsson, Jan (2003). *Att förklara samhället*. 2nd edition. Lund: Studentlitteratur. 371 p. ISBN 9144027729.

DeLyser, Dydia, Herbert, Steve, Aitken, Stuart, Crang, Mike & McDowell, Linda (eds)

(2010) *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Geography*. London: Sage. 431 p. ISBN: 9781412919913.

Gregory, Derek, Johnston, Ron, Pratt, Geraldine, Watts, Michael & Whatmore, Sarah (eds) (2009). *The Dictionary of Human Geography*. Fifth edition. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell. 1,052 p. ISBN: 9781405132886.

HoltJensen, Arild. (2009). *Geography: history and concepts*. 4th edition. Los Angeles: Sage. 264 p. ISBN: 9781412946506.

Moss, Pamela (ed. 2002). *Feminist geography in practice: research and methods*. Blackwell, Oxford. 379 p. ISBN: 0631220194.

Ramazanoglu, Caroline & Holland, Janet (2002). *Feminist methodology: challenges and choices*. London: SAGE. 194 p. ISBN: 0761951237

Schough, Katarina (2008) *Hyperboré: föreställningen om Sveriges plats i världen*. Stockholm: Carlsson. 247 p. ISBN: 9789173311854.

Sibley, David (ed) (2005). *Cultural Geography: A Critical Dictionary of Key Ideas*. London: Tauris & Company. 222 p. ISBN 1860647030.

List of references Module 2 - Thematic Specialization in Human geography 7.5 credits

Literature relevant for the theme of the semester, ca 1,000 pages The list of references is made available to students at least 7 weeks before the start of the course.

List of references Module 3 - Thesis 15 credits

Required Reading

Literature relevant to the thesis is chosen in consultation with the examiner.

Additional Study Material

Flowerdew, R. & Martin D. (eds.) (2005 or the latest edition) *Methods in human geography: a guide for students doing research*. Longman: Harlow.

Gregory, D., Johnston, R., Pratt, G., Watts, M. J. & Whatmore, S. (eds.) (2009 or the latest edition) *The Dictionary of Human Geography*. Fifth edition. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell.

Hoggart, K., Lees, L. & Davies, A (2002 or the latest edition). *Researching human geography*. London: Hodder Arnold.

Kitchin, R. & Tate, N. J. (2000 or the latest edition) *Conducting research into human geography: theory, methodology and practice*. Prentice Hall, Harlow.

Kvale, S. & Brinkmann, S. (2014 or the latest edition) *Den kvalitativa forskningsintervjun*. Lund: Studentlitteratur.

Rienecker, L. & Jørgensen, P.S. (2014 or the latest edition) *Att skriva en bra uppsats*. Stockholm: Liber.