



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Social Studies

2SO30E Sociologi III - fördjupningskurs, 30 högskolepoäng  
2SO30E Sociology III, 30 credits

### **Main field of study**

Sociology

### **Subject Group**

Sociology

### **Level of classification**

First Level

### **Progression**

G2E

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved 2009-12-09

Revised 2022-06-02 by Faculty of Social Sciences. Revision of literature.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2022

### **Prerequisites**

Admission to the course requires completion of courses in Sociology comprising 1-60 credits, or the equivalent.

## Objectives

After completing the course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate advanced knowledge of the use of sociological theories,
- clarify the importance of theory to research issue, empiricism and analysis,
- independently analyse social phenomena,
- evaluate and reflect critically on available methods and apply a relevant method to their own study,
- independently plan and conduct an empirical study based on a defined sociological question,
- report in writing and defend an independent project with scientific relevance,
- critically review another independent project with scientific relevance.

### ***Module 1 The craft of Theoretical Sociology 7.5 credits***

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

- describe and explain the purpose of the different parts included in a scientific study (i.e. disposition),
- identify and explain how theory is applied in scientific sociological studies and be able to describe different methods and techniques for how theorizing is used in sociological studies,
- develop sociologically supported research issues within the chosen area,
- critically process and summarise previous research in the chosen area.

### ***Module 2 Sociological Analysis 7.5 credits***

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

- evaluate and reflect critically on available methods and apply a relevant method to their own study,
- independently conduct a sociological analysis of given material.

### ***Module 3 Thesis 15 credits***

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

- independently plan and carry out an empirical study based on a defined sociological research issue,
- write and defend an independent project with scientific relevance,
- critically examine another independent project with scientific relevance.

## **Content**

The course consists of three modules.

### ***Module 1 The craft of Theoretical Sociology 7.5 credits***

The aim of the module is for students to orientate themselves in and become aware of how theories are used in all parts of the research work, from introduction and problem definition to discussion and conclusions, and the importance of being able to in a creative manner apply theorizing in the completion of all the parts.

The module focuses on deepening the understanding of the relation between research issue, theory, method and empiricism to by this gain knowledge about the importance of all the different parts of a scientific study. Through lectures, seminars and workshops, the students are given the opportunity to practice how to 1) identify a problem area/social phenomenon and how to describe this by the use of creative observations as well as through previous research, 2) define 2-3 research issues with different orientations for the chosen area/social phenomenon, applying different sociological theories and concepts, 3) write an initial research overview developing the issues relevant to the chosen field. Additionally, in 4) is included being able to analyse empirical research publications and/or master theses in sociology in order to become aware of the disposition and included elements of a scientific study.

### ***Module 2 Sociological Analysis 7.5 credits***

The aim of the module is to provide knowledge of and skills in sociological analysis. The module consists of two parts where the first part presents a selection of sociological analysis methods of a quantitative as well as a qualitative nature. The possibilities as well as limitations of different analysis methods and their appropriateness in relation to

research issues are looked into. The second part of the module is aimed at enhancing the students' practical skills. The students choose to engage in studying qualitative or quantitative data and practice how to plan and conduct analyses of the same.

### ***Module 3 Thesis 15 credits***

The principal element of this module is writing and defending a thesis of limited extent, comprising 15 credits, with sociological and scientific relevance. The student shall plan and carry out the work on the study independently under the guidance of a supervisor. There will be regular supervision sessions held during the course, in groups and/or individually. The course also includes a seminar in which the student shall participate in a public discussion and examination where they review another student's thesis and defend their own.

### **Type of Instruction**

Teaching consists of lectures, group exercises, supervision and seminars.

### **Examination**

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

Examination of module 1, *The Craft of Theoretical Sociology*, takes place by means of two individual written assignments and through participation in practical sessions. In order to receive a grade of Pass in the module, the objectives must be attained. For a grade of Pass with Distinction in the module, the grade of Pass with Distinction is required for the two written assignments.

Examination of module 2, *Sociological Analysis*, takes place by means of one written assignment, one individual analysis report and through participation in practical sessions. In order to receive a grade of Pass in the module, the objectives must be attained. For a grade of Pass with Distinction in the module, the grade of Pass with Distinction is required for the analysis report.

Examination of module 3, *Thesis*, takes place by means of writing, presenting and defending a thesis, and through the public discussion and examination of another thesis. In order to receive a grade of Pass in the module, the objectives must be attained. For a grade of Pass with Distinction in the module, the grade of Pass with Distinction is required for the thesis.

Linguistic skills are also evaluated and included in the assessment of all the written examinations.

In order to receive a grade of Pass in the entire course, at least the grade of Pass is required for all the examination assignments of the modules. For a final grade of Pass with Distinction in the course, it is required that more than 50% of the modules are assessed as Pass with Distinction.

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 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.

## Required Reading and Additional Study Material

### *List of references Module 1 - The craft of Theoretical Sociology 7.5 credits*

Rienecker, Lotte., Stray Jørgensen, Peter. (Latest edition). *Att skriva en bra uppsats*. Stockholm: Liber. (150 p.)

Swedberg, Richard (ed.) (2012). Theorizing in sociology and social science: Turning to the context of discovery. *Theory and Society*, 41(1), 1-40

Scientific publications, comprising circa 250 pages.

### *List of references Module 2 - Sociological Analysis 7.5 credits*

Fekjaer, Silje Bringsrud (2016) *Att tolka och förstå statistik*. Malmö: Gleerups. 96 p.

Rennstam, Jens & Wästerfors, David. (Latest edition). *Från stoff till studie: om analysarbete i kvalitativ forskning*. Lund: Studentlitteratur.

Publications are chosen in consultation with the teachers, 200-300 pages.

## Works of Reference

Djurfeldt, Göran & Barmark, Mimmi. (Latest edition). *Statistisk verktygslåda 1: Samhällsvetenskaplig orsaksanalys med kvantitativa metoder* [2nd ed.] Lund: Studentlitteratur.

Rienecker, Lotte., Stray Jørgensen, Peter. (Latest edition). *Att skriva en bra uppsats*. Stockholm: Liber.

### *List of references Module 3 - Thesis 15 credits*

Rienecker, Lotte och Stray Jørgensen, Peter. (Latest edition ). *Att skriva en bra uppsats*. Stockholm: Liber. (400 p.)

Other literature is chosen in consultation with the course coordinator.