



Programme syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Sociologiprogrammet, 180 högskolepoäng

Sociology Programme, 180 credits

Level

First Level

Date of Ratification

Approved 2009-09-15

Revised 2019-12-05 by the Faculty Board within the Faculty of Social Sciences

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2020

Prerequisites

General entry requirements.

Description of Programme

The aim of the Sociology Programme is that students should acquire the broad sociological skills required to become an analyst, evaluator, or project manager and work in various businesses, organisations and public authorities - wherever it is required to understand how individuals and groups work in harmony with each other and with society.

The programme is permeated by a problem-solving approach with extensive use of field exercises. This enables the student to acquire and develop new knowledge, and be able to change in response to new situations and demands. In addition, the programme will develop the students' ability to both cooperate and work independently.

Objectives

Qualitative Targets in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance

Knowledge and Understanding

In order to obtain a bachelor's degree, the student shall:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding within the main field of study, including knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field and an understanding of applicable methodologies in the field, carry out specialised study in some aspect of the field as well demonstrate awareness of current research issues .

Competence and Skills

In order to obtain a bachelor's degree, the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to compile and critically interpret relevant information in

their approach to a problem as well as critically discuss phenomena, issues and situations,

- demonstrate the ability to autonomously identify, formulate and solve problems as well as carry out assignments within a given time frame,
- both verbally and in writing, demonstrate the ability to present and discuss information, problems and solutions in dialogue with various groups,
- demonstrate the proficiency required to independently work within the field at which the education is aimed.

Judgement and Approach

In order to obtain a bachelor's degree, the student shall:

- within the main field of study, demonstrate the ability to make assessments with regard to relevant scientific, societal and ethical aspects,
- demonstrate insight into the role of knowledge in society as well as an understanding of the responsibility of the individual for how it is used,
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and to develop the individual competence.

Programme Specific Objectives

Knowledge and Understanding

After completing the programme, students shall be able to:

- identify and use sociological concepts,
- examine and compare the validity and relevance of various sociological perspectives,
- make independent and critical assessments of sociological research methods,
- use sociological theories in an analytical manner,
- justify and evaluate theoretical validity claims.

Competence and Skills

After completing the programme, students shall be able to:

- formulate and investigate sociologically relevant issues,
- conduct independent, critical assessments of sociological relevant information and knowledge,
- conduct oral and written reports detailing their knowledge,
- conduct scientifically relevant and critical evaluations,
- use their knowledge to solve problems in various areas of social life,
- use their knowledge in order to manage or contribute to quality assurance and development in the working life.

Judgement and Approach

After completing the programme, students shall be able to:

- search out, compare and evaluate scientific texts on the subject,
- demonstrate awareness of the ethical implications of scientific work,
- develop an ability to reflect on their own knowledge and its role in society.

Independent Project

After completing the programme, students shall be able to:

- independently carry out a sociological study and be able to apply advanced methods and theories,
- write an essay that meets the requirements of the scientific approach.

Content

Programme Overview

The programme consists of a basic educational block including Sociology I, II and III (90 credits), a programme-specific profile course (30 credits) and two elective semesters. One of the elective semesters is a general one since it is offered to all students studying the programme (semester 3), and the second elective semester (semester 6) is offered to the students who choose the Theoretical Studies (alternative 2 below) for the bachelor's course. Students who choose the Placement Studies (alternative 1 below) alternate studies in their bachelor's course with internship (30 credits). The sociology courses and the programme-specific semester are compulsory. The programme will primarily be given in Swedish, but specific courses may be held in English.

Programme courses

(* = course within the main field of study)

***Semester 1, 30 credits**

The equivalent to GN1 in Sociology

Module 1: the course introduces sociology as a science, its distinctive nature and growth, 7.5 credits.

Module 2: discusses how everyday interaction between people is implemented on the basis of various aspects such as gender, social class, ethnicity and age, 7.5 credits.

Module 3: the course is an introduction to the theory of science and research design, 7.5 credits.

Module 4: discusses modern research fields within sociology and their applications, 7.5 credits.

***Semester 2**

The equivalent to G1F in sociology, the course involves specialised and complementary studies of G1N.

Module 1: a theoretical course aimed at providing general knowledge of sociology, 7.5 credits.

Module 2: aimed at providing basic skills in the methods used in sociology, 7.5 credits.

Module 3: a methodology course intended as a preparation for the coming paper, 7.5 credits.

Module 4: writing an academic paper, 7.5 credits.

Semester 3:

Students are given the opportunity to choose courses in other subjects, at other departments or universities, in consultation with the programme coordinator. They may study G1N in another subject or combine different courses comprising 30 credits in total. This semester may be studied abroad. Examples of possible subjects are Political Science, Law, Economics, Pedagogy, History, English and Statistics.

***Semester 4**

Programme-specific semester: Work-oriented semester where the courses focus on specific trade skills that are somewhat beyond the academic subject knowledge. This orientation is thus more about skills that may be useful in the future professional life, than knowledge of the actual working life.

Module 1: the course discusses formal structures, legislation, public administration and decision-making in society, nationally as well as internationally, 7.5 credits.

Module 2: the course discusses how financial institutions and economic organisation impact and are impacted by social conditions, 7.5 credits.

Module 3: the course deals with rhetoric, oral and written presentations, as well as the importance of different forms of communication. The course focuses on press contacts, presentations, lectures and writing of various types of documents, 7.5 credits.

Module 4: the course is focused on assessment/evaluation with the emphasis on application in practice, 7.5 credits.

*Semester 5 and 6

Alternative 1: Placement Studies

Semester 5 begins with Theoretical Studies, 7.5 credits, followed by Sociological Analysis, 7.5 credits. These are then followed by a placement preparatory course, 7.5 credits alongside the placement, 7.5 credits, for the remaining time of the semester. *Semester 6* begins with the placement, 15 credits and is completed with an independent project, 15 credits.

Alternative 2: Theoretical studies

Semester 5 begins with Theoretical Studies, 7.5 credits, followed by Sociological Analysis, 7.5 credits. The semester is completed with an independent project, 15 credits.

Semester 6. The student shall for semester 6 choose relevant courses comprising 30 credits, in consultation with the programme coordinator. This may be courses in other subjects given at Linnaeus university or at other higher education institutions in Sweden or abroad.

Societal Relevance

Teaching of sociology is strongly focused on how to perform the work in relation to the surrounding community. Students conduct field exercises where they shall collect materials and experiences from "the world outside the university." These field exercises provide a basis for the rest of the teaching and aims to make the specific skills useful and well-anchored in reality. In the programme, the students are also offered the possibility of an optional extended placement period corresponding to approximately 15 weeks alongside the G2E course given. Students are responsible for arranging their placement themselves. The aim of the placement is to make the knowledge of sociology useful in the working life as well as a way to conduct thesis work closely with businesses, authorities or other organisations. The professional and work-integrated form of education contributes to students' employability. It also contributes to the generation of important knowledge of the skills and competence sought after in the labour market, through the course coordinator's visits to and contact with the placements.

Internationalisation

The sociology programme has an international profile, at the local level and through the exchange programme as well as through competence development for teaching personnel. Internationalisation at the local level entails that international perspectives are included in the course literature (related to content as well as writers from around the world), and through external lecturers being invited as well as special seminars on global issues being held. Studies abroad may be carried out during semester 3 or for parts of semester 5 and 6 and include the opportunity to study a variety of subjects at a foreign university, as well as conduct the independent project abroad.

Programme Perspectives

Sustainable Development

The programme discusses theories and methods, by the use of which students can analyse social phenomena relevant to an ecologically, economically and socially sustainable development, including issues on resources, allocation of resources and inequality.

Equal Terms

At Linnaeus University, "equal terms" are used as an administrative general concept referring to diversity, equality, equal opportunities, equal treatment and accessibility. These aspects concern issues on social categories and social stratification. Sociology as a subject looks into, as one of the key study areas, the causes and effects of such levels of social stratification, at the local level as well as at the global level. The programme discusses the conceptual, theoretical and methodological tools required in order to discover, understand and be able to explain categorical forms of social stratification and exclusion. The perspective of equal terms is also part of the concrete educational activities and the organisation of the same. The perspective of equality means for instance that students meet both men and women during lectures, as well as both men and women being the writers of the course literature. Another such example is that students, specifically those of foreign origin, are encouraged to write papers and essays in English (if they have limited knowledge of Swedish).

Broadened Knowledge Perspective

The sociology programme is based on and conveys a broadened knowledge perspective in two main ways; both are related to the traits of sociology as a subject and a disciplinary domain of science. Sociology includes several different knowledge perspectives and areas of application, which touch upon or overlap other disciplinary domains of science. Sociology has a living relation to the standard issues of social science and social philosophy, and the programme thus gives the students the opportunity to, alongside the studies of current research and scientific experience, also study classical works within and outside the more limited contemporary discipline of sociology.

Entrepreneurial Approach

The concept of "entrepreneurial approach" is included in the programme as a potential field of study, and is also part of the conditions and structure of the programme. The latter applies specifically to the placement studies and the other field exercises included in the programme, where qualities such as initiative, responsibility and creativity are both assumed and encouraged. In terms of studying the concept itself, students in the programme are provided with the tools and opportunities required to be able to reflect on how an entrepreneurial approach and the institutionally related conceptions of the same affect the professional practice and society in general.

Quality Development

There is a programme coordinator appointed, and a programme committee consisting of student representatives from all three classes in the programme and the programme coordinator. The programme coordinator arranges a programme committee meeting once every semester, in order to review the course evaluations and to in a more qualitative way, gather student experiences and views from the previous semester. Compilations of various course and programme evaluations are available at the university. The programme committee meetings are held in order to ensure student influence. There is also a programme council, consisting of the programme coordinator, teachers and student representatives. If required, representatives from the working life and alumni are also invited. The programme council meets once every academic year, or more frequently if required. The programme council's assignments include for instance:

- Promote the development of the programme, for instance based on outside interests, requirements and needs.
- Function as a forum where the students' experiences, interests and requirements are expressed and looked after accordingly.
- Follow up the development of the programme and thus take part in, or be informed of the evaluations carried out in the programme.
- Function as a forum for the continuous development work within the programme.

Programme council meetings are also held more regularly with a smaller group

consisting of the programme coordinator and some of the teachers in the programme and/or the course coordinators. The aim of these meetings is to discuss issues on the programme content, structure and development. Development activities in the programme are documented and subsequently filed at the department.

Degree Certificate

After completed studies in accordance with the objectives specified in the Higher Education Ordinance's system of qualifications and Linnaeus University's system of qualifications, the student can apply for a diploma. Those having completed the Sociology Programme can obtain the following qualification:

Bachelor of Science
(Main field of study: Sociology)

The diploma is written in Swedish and English. The diploma also comes with a Diploma Supplement (in English)

Other Information

Some courses/components are studied at the same time.

Field work is conducted during several semesters.

Any travel expenses during placement and field work are paid for by the students themselves.