



## **Social Science in Context: Historical, Contemporary and Global Perspectives**

Samhällsvetenskapernas historia, samhällsroll och globala sammanhang

**Credit points:** 7,5 CTS credits

**Responsible department:** Department of Sociology

**Main field of study:** Social Sciences

**Level:** PhD studies

**Specialisation in relation to degree requirements:** Licentiate of Philosophy or Doctor of Philosophy

**Subject area:** Social Sciences

**Grading scale:** Pass (G); Fail (U).

### **Confirmation**

The course syllabus was established by the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 2014-09-08 and is valid from 2014-10-01.

### **Contents**

The course offers a general introduction to the history and sociology of the social sciences. Its main focus is concerned with the dynamic relationship between the social sciences and society at large, including themes such as the rise and establishment of the social sciences, gender and power, science and politics, academic boundaries and disciplinarity, internationalization and stratification, global power relations and postcolonial perspectives. The aim is to encourage a contextual and reflexive understanding of the changing roles and functions of the social sciences of the past and in today's globalised world.

The course is structured in two modules. The aim of the first module is to offer an introductory overview of the field. It consists of chronologically and thematically organized lectures as well as seminars and individual literature studies.

The aim of the second module is to offer an opportunity for the participants to deepen their knowledge around a specific topic related to the course and to their individual research interests. The topic is chosen in dialogue with the teachers. The teaching is carried out in the form of tutorials, seminars and ends with a presentation aimed at training the student's academic skills.

All lectures and seminars are held in English.

### **Expected learning outcomes**

After completion of the course the student is expected to:

- have a deepened knowledge in the area of the history and sociology of the social sciences.



# Course syllabus

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- be able to reflect upon his or her own area of specialization in the context of the changing roles and functions of the social sciences in historical, contemporary and global perspectives.
- have trained his or her practical skills in oral and literary presentation.

## **Required knowledge**

Applicants are required to be registered at a PhD program at Umeå University.

## **Form of instruction**

The course content is delivered through lectures and individual and group work. All teaching will be in English.

## **Examination modes**

The examination consists of two parts. Students will write an individual essay on a relevant research question and are expected to hold one presentation. In order to be awarded a Pass grade for the course as a whole, the student must pass both parts of the examination and attend all compulsory seminars as indicated in the course schedule.

## **Academic credit transfer**

Academic credit transfers are reviewed individually. For more information, please see the University's set of rules and academic credit transfer regulations.

## **Course literature**

Camic, Charles, Gross, Neil, & Lamont, Michèle, eds (2011), □ *Social Knowledge in the Making*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Connell, Raewyn (2007), *Southern Theory: The Global Dynamics of Knowledge in Social Science*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Danell, Rickard, Larsson, Anna & Wisselgren, Per, eds (2013), *Social Science in Context: Historical, Sociological and Global Perspectives*. Lund: Nordic Academic Press.

UNESCO (2010), *World Social Science Report 2010: Knowledge Divides*. Paris: UNESCO & ISSC.

Wallerstein, Immanuel, et al. (1996), *Open the Social Sciences: Report of the Gulbenkian Commission on the Restructuring of the Social Sciences*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Extra articles may be added.