



## SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

### **LA1112 Latin American Social and Political Movements, 15 credits**

Sociala och politiska rörelser i Latinamerika, 15 högskolepoäng

*First Cycle*

---

#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2010-09-29 and was last revised on 2017-12-20 by Department of Global Studies to be valid from 2018-01-15, spring semester of 2018.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* School of Global Studies

#### **Position in the educational system**

The course is a core course in the first cycle and can be studied as a single subject course.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) BA-program in Global Studies (S1GLS)

#### *Main field of studies*

Latin American Studies

#### *Specialization*

G1N, First Cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

General entrance requirements

#### **Learning outcomes**

The aim of the course is that the student shall be able to describe the main features of the social and political relations of Latin America.

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- on the basis of different theoretical perspectives describe the Latin-American society and its central political and social structures as well as the most important actors in the region;
- describe political and social processes that promote or prevent democracy development and social justice;
- describe and analyse the different social movements in the region as well as the organisation of the civil society;
- discuss the gender perspective in different social and political processes in the region;

#### *Competence and skills*

- within given time frames be able to study and seek relevant information that can explain political and social restructuring processes in Latin America;
- orally and in writing, individually and in collaboration with others, summarise and discuss the fundamental features of a scientific text;

#### *Judgement and approach*

- evaluate different sources and theories that describe Latin America's social and political processes;
- critically describe different theoretical perspectives in the study of Latin America.

### **Course content**

The course discusses different political and social movements in Latin America and their influence on society and policy, historically up to today. The organisation of the civil society is discussed thoroughly on the basis of a number of different social sectors, as well as their actions and influence on the political and social development. The course consists of two modules:

#### **1. Political structures, movements and actors** (*Politiska strukturer, rörelser och aktörer*)

During the first module, state formations are analysed in a historical and comparative perspective, as well as the political and social actors and conditions that promote or prevent democracy development and social justice in the region. In the course, specific theoretical and empirical analyses of political structures and cultures in Latin America are discussed. Different political movements and actors and their influence on society and policy, e g in the field of the gender equality policy, in modern Latin America are illustrated and discussed.

#### **2. Social structures, social movements and social rights** (*Sociala strukturer, sociala rörelser and sociala rättigheter*)

Module 2 gives basic knowledge of the social structures of modern Latin America, their historical development as well as how different social actors influence civil society. We problematise the different social movements that have arisen in

different countries and in different social sectors (e.g. ethnic groups, women, farmers, workers). We study the demands for social justice these social movements make on society and policy, as well as their action and influence over the actual policy and society. Further, we analyse different ways to make politics in Latin America, how the different political cultures are formed and the challenges they are confronted with within the scope of the different regional contexts.

### **Form of teaching**

Throughout the course, the teaching is carried out through lectures and seminars. In the web-based version of the course, the teaching is conducted mainly through written assignments, discussion forum and detailed reading instructions.

*Language of instruction:* Swedish and English  
*The course can be offered in both Swedish and English.*

### **Assessment**

As a basis for assessment, if the student has achieved the mandatory expected learning outcomes, lie different examinations that are divided into six different written take-home examinations:

**Examination 1:** *Political Cultures and Structures* (2 credits)

**Examination 2:** *Politics and Civil Society* (2 credits)

**Examination 3:** *Political Challenges in Latin America* (3.5 credits)

**Examination 4:** *Class, Ethnicity and Gender in Rural Contexts* (2 credits)

**Examination 5:** *Social Challenges in Urban Contexts* (2 credits)

**Examination 6:** *Social Challenges in Latin America* (3.5 credits)

For resource reasons, the number of examination occasions is limited to 5 occasions for each examination item.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

**Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

In order to be rewarded a Pass grade (G) for the course a Pass grade is required on all examinations. In order to be rewarded a Pass with Distinction (VG) for the course a Pass with Distinction on at least two of the examinations worth 2 credits as well as both examinations worth 3.5 credits is required, in addition to the criteria for a grade Pass.

**Course evaluation**

A written course evaluation will be carried out at the end of the course. The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and the next class to take the course.

**Additional information**

The course can also be offered as a web-based course. The web-based version requires that the students have access to computer with internet access and email. A specific electronic platform or computer program will be used. The course can be offered as either full-time studies or half-speed.