



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

MU1626 Culture and Sexuality in Modern Swedish Society: from 'the Swedish Sin' to Queer, 7.5 higher education credits

Culture and Sexuality in Modern Swedish Society: from 'the Swedish Sin' to Queer, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2008-10-06 to be valid from 2008-10-06, spring semester of 2009.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: School of Global Studies

Position in the educational system

The course Global Cities, 7,5 higher education credits, is given as an additional single subject course.

Main field of studies

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Specialization

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

Entry requirements

General entrance requirements

Learning outcomes

After completing the course the students will be able to:

- give an account of the main theoretical perspectives on sexuality, gender and desire
- discuss the history of heteronormativity and politics of equality in Sweden
- problematise the relations between nature and culture as represented in political, cultural and artistic contexts
- take a critical perspective on issues of heteronormativity and the practice of queer politics

Course content

The dominant take on sexuality in Sweden is often represented as radical, progressive and focused on sexual liberty and equality between the sexes. However, when taking a closer look at some of the specific periods of time associated with liberal debates on issues such as sexual education, women's liberation and contraceptives, a more complex pattern emerge. The 1950s debates on sexual education and contraceptives, bolstered by a discussion surrounding the screen movie "Hon dansade en sommar", gave birth to the idea in America, and later Europe, of "the Swedish sin" in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Through a contextualisation of and comparison with important events, in Sweden, in the late nineteenth century and the late twentieth century, the sexual liberalism of the 1960s is scrutinized. During the last decades of the nineteenth century there was an influential debate about women's liberation and sexual morality; illustrating that there are no given connections between political radicalism and sexual liberalism. This applies to the development of queer discourses and politics in Sweden as well, which was implemented during the 1990s. The objective of the course is thus to scrutinize the naturalization of the concepts of sexuality, moral, gender and power within the sexual liberal discourse during 'the long twentieth century' in Sweden.

Form of teaching

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The student is assessed through written assignments and active participation in obligatory seminars.

A student who has failed a test twice has the right to change examiner, unless weighty argument can be adduced. The application shall be sent to the board of the department and has to be in writing.

Grades

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

Course evaluation

The course coordinator guarantees that the students' points of views are considered regularly and systematically during the course/at the end of the course. This is done by written and verbal evaluation. The results of the evaluation will be communicated to the students and will function as a guide for the development of the course.

