



## SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

### **SA2231 Understanding Culture: Theoretical Perspectives and Ethnographic Analysis, 15 higher education credits**

Understanding Culture: Theoretical Perspectives and Ethnographic Analysis, 15 högskolepoäng

*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2006-10-30 and was last revised on 2015-11-02 by Department of Global Studies to be valid from 2015-11-03, spring semester of 2016.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* School of Global Studies

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

The course is an elective in-depth course within the programmes below. It can also be studied as a single subject course.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Master's Programme in European Studies (S2EUS) and 2) Master's Programme in Global Studies (S2GLS)

*Main field of studies*

Global Studies

*Specialization*

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

To be admitted to the course *Understanding Culture: Theoretical Perspectives and Ethnographic Analysis* 15 higher education credits in a core course on advanced level within the field of Global Studies, or equivalent competence, is required. A good command of English is vital. Requirements are: Swedish Gymnasium Engelska B with at least a Pass mark, or a valid test of English as a foreign language, or alternatively a Bachelor's degree from an education held in English.

## Learning outcomes

After successful completion of the course the student shall be able to:

### *Knowledge and understanding*

- identify and critically account for different influential theoretical perspectives in contemporary anthropological studies of culture and globalization;
- relate appropriate theoretical concepts to specific analytical approaches;

### *Skills and abilities*

- apply conceptual tools and analytical models to specific ethnographic material;

### *Judgement and approach*

- evaluate and compare the consequences of different analytical approaches for the understanding of how culture shapes globalization and vice versa.

## Course content

This course explores contemporary anthropological perspectives and approaches to culture and globalization with a specific focus on, on the one hand, how encounters between global forces and local actors generate cultural diversity and, on the other, how existing cultural practices and imaginations shape such encounters. The aim is to arrive at manageable concepts of culture and globalization that can be productively applied to various empirical (and ethnographic) settings and employed in interdisciplinary contexts. The course consists of two parts. The first part, *Anthropological Theory*, (7,5 hec), reviews the dominant anthropological theoretical perspectives on culture and globalization. The second part, *Ethnographic Analysis*, (7,5 hec), focuses on the application of analytical approaches to specific ethnographic material. To this end, the module provides relevant conceptual tools for the analysis and interpretation of culture and globalization in various ethnographic contexts. The module requires the students to reflect upon the epistemological assumptions inherent in different analytic approaches and their consequences for ethnographic representation.

## Form of teaching

The teaching on this course will primarily consist of lectures and seminars.

*Language of instruction:* English

**Assessment**

The examination comprises an oral and a written exam. The oral examination consists of the presentation of ethnographic texts in the seminar.

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).

To be awarded a Pass grade, a Pass grade is required on all examination components.

To be awarded a Pass with distinction, a Pass with distinction is required on the written examination, in addition to the criteria for a Pass grade.

**Course evaluation**

A written course evaluation will be carried out at the end of the course. The results and possible changes in the course will be shared with the students who participated in the evaluation and to those who are beginning the course through publication on GUL.