



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

GS1116 Global Gender Studies: Agency and Structure, 15 higher education credits

Globala genusstudier: agens och struktur, 15 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Global Studies on 2016-02-24 to be valid from 2016-08-29, autumn semester of 2016.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: School of Global Studies

Position in the educational system

The course is a single subject core course in the first cycle.

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

Main field of studies

Global Studies

Specialization

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

Entry requirements

General entrance requirements

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- account for theories of agency and structures in relation to gender;
- account for the relation between structures, gendered individuals and agency;

Skills and abilities

- write shorter academic texts;
- formulate questions relevant to the course literature;
- identify agency and structure in the examples provided within the thematic fields;

Judgement and approach

- critically reflect on the relation between unequal gender structures and global power structures.

Course content

The course examines a number of important and current global themes from a critical gender perspective and a structure/actor perspective. Examples of themes are migration, nations, states and borders, conflict, religion and security, trade and labor, and health and sexuality. We discuss how these themes can be rooted in unequal gender structures and local and global power structures. Here, we learn about the specific themes, while using theories on agency and structure to understand unequal structures and how these may change. This module challenges the understanding of gender and its framework, decentering the concept of gender, welfare issues etc. Discussions of women and men as actors or victims of structures are constantly recurring. Western feminists have been criticized for victimizing women and framing them as helpless instead of as competent actors with the possibility to change their lives and define their needs. The question of what role structures play and the meanings of agency will be critically discussed in this module.

Form of teaching

The main forms of teaching are lectures and mandatory seminars.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The examination will be conducted through: 1. Four mandatory seminars; 2. Four seminar papers; 3. One take home exam.

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 for the course a Pass grade is required on all assignments. In order to be rewarded a Pass with Distinction for the course a Pass with Distinction on assignment no. 3 is required, in addition to the requirements for a Pass grade.

Assignment no. 1 and 2 are graded with Pass or Fail only.

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 students who are starting the course through publication on GUL.