



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

GS2121 Global Studies: Theories and Perspectives, 15 credits

Global Studies: Theories and Perspectives, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2016-06-07 and was last revised on 2022-06-30 by School of Global Studies to be valid from 2022-08-29, autumn semester of 2022.

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 second cycle.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in Global Studies (S2GLS)

Main field of studies

Global Studies

Specialization

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

A bachelor's degree with a minimum of 30 higher education credits in a subject within the field of Global Studies, or equivalent competence. Applicants must prove their knowledge of English: English 6/English B from Swedish Upper Secondary School or the equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS, or alternatively a bachelor's degree from an education held in English.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- discuss the differences and complementarities between the analytical lenses offered by different disciplines and subject fields within Global Studies;
- review some of the key thematic debates within the field of Global Studies;

Competence and skills

- find, review and reference academic literature in an advanced manner;
- construct a succinct and well-substantiated line of argument in a written essay;
- convert academic insight into interventions in public debate;

Judgement and approach

- scrutinize the conceptual and empirical quality of academic literature;
- appraise the ways in which divergent disciplinary traditions construct knowledge;
- critically interrogate claims and positions in academic, policy and public debate.

Course content

This course offers an introductory overview and academic grounding to the field of Global Studies. While the origins of this field are closely connected to debates on globalization, increased inter-connectivity and the co-construction of local and global dynamics, it has evolved beyond these debates. This course exposes students to Global Studies as an arena of distinct yet interconnected academic disciplines and subject fields, which engage with a wide range of global connectivity, global circulation and global challenges – and their multi-level manifestations. Students will explore several disciplinary lenses and the differences and complementarities between them, highlighting epistemological questions such as gender and global power relations, or structures of knowledge. The core of the course comprises a sequence of thematic clusters including circulation, capitalism, conflict, migration and environmental crisis. Students will be required to reflect on these phenomena and on the implications of studying them from diverse disciplinary angles. In addition, the course entails a deliberative engagement with theory and the analytical work we expect it to do. We will consider several theoretical strands, with divergent implications for the way we construct knowledge. As such, the course will equip students with the skills and tools to juxtapose empirical insights, theoretical perspectives and reflections on policy-practice in relation to some of the world's most pressing concerns.

Form of teaching

The main forms of teaching are lectures and mandatory seminars.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Examination consists of five parts:

1. Active participation in seminars (oral). Participation in seminars is graded with either Pass or Fail.
2. One (1) literature review (graded with a maximum of 10 points).
3. One (1) individually written seminar paper (graded with a maximum of 10 points)
4. Participation in and active contribution to a group assignment (Pass or Fail)
5. Take-home exam at the end of the course (individually written) (which will be graded with a maximum of 30 points)

A student who has taken two exams in a course or part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner. The student needs to contact the department for a new examiner, preferably in writing, and this should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years, after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to placements and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

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

To be awarded a Pass grade for the course requires active participation in all seminars and the group assignment, 5 (of 10) points for the literature review, 5 (of 10) points for the written seminar paper and 15 (of 30) points for the take home exam.

To be awarded Pass with Distinction for the course requires active participation in all seminars and the group assignment, 5 (of 10) points for the literature review, 8 (of 10) points for the written seminar paper and 24 (of 30) points for the take home exam.

Course evaluation

The course coordinator is responsible for systematically and regularly collecting the students' views of the course, and for making sure that the results of the evaluations in different forms are taken into consideration when developing the course. The results and possible changes to the course will be shared with the students who participated in the evaluation and the next class to take the course.