



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

SA1121 Introduction to Social Anthropology 1, 15 credits

Introduktion till socialantropologi 1, 15 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Global Studies on 2019-02-13 and was last revised on 2020-05-28 by School of Global Studies to be valid from 2020-08-31, autumn semester of 2020.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: School of Global Studies

Position in the educational system

This is an introductory core course at first cycle level.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Anthropology Programme (S1ANT), 2) the Bachelor's programme in Global studies (S1GLS) and 3) Heritage Studies, Bachelor's programme (H1KAS).

Main field of studies

Social Anthropology

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

- identify ethnography as a form of knowledge;

- discuss different definitions and uses of the cultural concept;
- relate the concept of culture to power and the social dimensions of society;

Competence and skills

- make short summaries of scientific texts;
- formulate simple anthropological arguments;
- follow the basic conventions of academic writing;

Judgement and approach

- assess advantages and disadvantages of observation as a method.

Course content

The course gives an introduction to the discipline of social anthropology with a focus on the culture concept and the anthropological approach and introduces the student to higher education and academic writing. In order to understand the development and distinctiveness of the discipline, the student is given ample space to work with how the culture concept has changed over time and in different contexts. The culture concept is discussed both as an analytic concept and as an everyday "folk" concept in society. The relationship between culture as an analytic concept and an everyday "folk" concept, and how they have influenced one another, is exemplified and problematized. Culture as the construction of meaning is related to social processes, particularly power and social hierarchies. The course provides an overview of ethnography as a method and the ethnographic monograph as a genre of knowledge production in anthropology, including how ethnographic monographs are based on field work and empirical data. Students conduct a group-based observational study, in which they collect and describe their data and create a basic analysis, as a way to begin learning research methods in the discipline. Throughout the course, the student receives training in academic skills such as summarizing texts and making arguments as well as presenting academic work orally and in writing.

Form of teaching

The course's pedagogical forms are primarily lectures, seminars, group assignments and exercises.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Components of the course may be given in English. The majority of course readings are in English.

Assessment

The course is assessed through:

- three written assignments based on ethnographic monographs (1.5 credits each);
- a written take-home examination (6 credits);
- active participation in two obligatory group exercises (1 credit each);
- an observation-based study, presented orally as a group and individually in writing (2.5 credits).

Students who have missed mandatory assignments will be given the opportunity to make them up.

Resources may dictate that make-up examinations be limited to five retakes.

A student who has twice failed the same examination may request a new examiner before the next examination opportunity, such a request must be submitted in writing to the department and approved unless there are special reasons to the contrary (HF Chapter 6 §22).

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student should normally be guaranteed access to at least three opportunities for examination (including the regular examination session) during a period of at least one year, but at the most two years after the course has been discontinued/changed. In regards to internships/placements, the equivalent applies but limited to only one additional examination session.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). Participation in group exercises is graded Pass (G) or Fail (U).

To pass the entire course, the student must pass all assignments and the final examination. The grade Pass with Distinction also requires the grade Pass with Distinction on the take-home examination and the grade Pass with Distinction for the three monograph assignments or the grade Pass with Distinction for the observation.

Course evaluation

The course coordinator is responsible for systematically and regularly collecting the students' evaluation of the course, and for making sure that the results of the evaluations whether oral or in writing are taken into consideration when developing the course. Evaluation results and any changes in the course structure should be communicated to both the students who completed the evaluation and to the students who will start the course.