

# Syllabus

The name of the education: Core Concepts in Sociological Theory 7.5 Credits

Code: SO3FU10

Finalized by: Institutionsstyrelsen vid Sociologiska institutionen, 2025-12-16

Valid from: Spring semester 2026 (2026-01-19)

Level within study regulation: Third cycle

Course modules: Core Concepts in Sociological Theory , 7.5 Credits

## 1. Entry requirements

Basic eligibility for postgraduate studies

## 2. Learning outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

To obtain a pass for the course, students shall be able to:

- account for the central concepts and themes that are fundamental to sociological thought
- categorise and compare different sociological theories and interpret their areas of application and relevance for understanding social phenomena
- discuss and clarify the content of classical and modern sociological texts

Skills and Abilities

To obtain a pass for the course, students shall be able to:

- apply sociological theory to analyse and problematise social phenomena
- communicate and present well-founded arguments for theoretical choices when analysing empirical data

Judgement and Approach

To obtain a pass for the course, students shall be able to:

- critically assess strengths and weaknesses in different sociological theories and concepts
- reflect on the consequences of using different theories to understand social phenomena
- make assessments and draw conclusions regarding the relevance and usefulness of sociological theory in different contexts

## 3. Content

The course addresses key concepts within sociological theory, focusing on central themes fundamental to sociological thought. It is thematic rather than chronological and combines theoretical concepts and insights from classical sociology with modern and contemporary theory. The course provides in-depth knowledge of sociological thinking, the role of theory within sociology, and how theory informs empirical research.

## 4. Forms of examination

The course is examined by means of a written paper. The same course is also offered at advanced level, where grading is based on a criterion-referenced seven-point grading scale:

A = Excellent

B = Very good

C = Good

D = Satisfactory

E = Pass

Failing grades:

Fx = Fail, some additional work required

F = Fail, substantial additional work required

For this course at doctoral level, a grade equivalent to C or higher is required in order to pass. Assessment at doctoral level is conducted using a two-grade scale (Pass/Fail).

The written grading criteria will be communicated to students at the start of the course. To obtain a final passing grade, students must have completed all compulsory assignments and have attended at least 75 per cent of the teaching sessions. If absence exceeds 25 per cent, the student must retake the course. For each course offering, at least two examination opportunities are normally provided within one calendar year.

## 5. Form of instruction

Teaching consists of seminars, although lectures, group exercises or other forms of instruction may also occur. Attendance at teaching sessions is compulsory. A maximum of two teaching occasions may be compensated. Compensation is made through a written summary of the course literature covered in the missed session.

Plagiarism, Cheating and Unauthorised Collaboration or Use of AI

Students are responsible for knowing the rules governing assessment. Detailed information is available on the Stockholm University website. Teachers are obliged to report suspected cheating and plagiarism to the Vice-Chancellor and the Disciplinary Committee. Plagiarism and cheating are always disciplinary matters and may result in suspension.

Examples of plagiarism include copying text verbatim or almost verbatim (including a single sentence or lines of code) without proper citation. Always ensure you know the origin of any text, or that you use quotation marks when submitting work not written entirely by yourself. This also applies to texts you have previously written (self-plagiarism). Cheating also includes the use of unauthorised aids such as mobile phones or generative AI during an examination. Study groups can be helpful and time-saving, but for assessed assignments you must work independently (unless otherwise clearly stated), in order to avoid being

considered to have engaged in unauthorised collaboration. Using ChatGPT or similar tools in examination tasks without the examiner's explicit permission and acknowledgement is regarded as cheating.

### **Transitional Provisions**

When the syllabus is discontinued, students are entitled to be examined once per term according to this syllabus during a phase-out period of three terms.

### **Restrictions**

The course may not be included in a degree together with another course whose content fully or partly overlaps with the content of this course.