

Syllabus

The name of the education: Modern Sociological Theory 7.5 Credits

Code: SO1FU33

Finalized by: Sociologiska institutionens styrelse, 2025-01-28

Valid from: Autumn semester 2025 (2025-09-01)

Level within study regulation: Third cycle

Course modules: Modern Sociological Theory, 7.5 Credits

1. Entry requirements

No Translation Available

2. Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

After completing the course the student must:

have knowledge of the main theories of the development of modern sociology,

be able to understand the meaning of central concepts and theories in modern sociology,

be able to understand similarities and differences between representatives of modern sociology,

know how modern sociology is influenced by classical sociology.

Skills and competencies

After completing the course, the student should:

be able to use relevant parts of modern sociology in their own analyzes of social phenomena,

be able to analyze the content of key texts by modern sociologists in a clear, well-formulated and well-argued way.

Values and attitudes

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

be critical of modern sociological theory; its merits and demerits.

3. Content

The aim of the course is to provide an orientation on modern sociological theory and an in-depth knowledge of certain selected theorists and / or directions in sociology. "Modern sociological theory" refers to the period after the collapse of functionalism around 1960 and up to the 1990s. From the mid-1990s until today, sociology has developed in a number of different directions and the image of sociology today appears to be more fragmented than

before. There is no longer an identifiable number of sociologists who dominate the theoretical discussion within the subject. Among the more prominent theorists during the period 1960-1995 are Pierre Bourdieu, Michel Foucault, Anthony Giddens, Erving Goffman and Jürgen Habermas. The list is completely male and reflects the current male dominance in sociology. However, this dominance has been challenged on a broad front by feminism, which in recent decades has given strong impetus to a change in sociology. Other important directions in sociology in the 80s and 90s are postmodernism and "rational choice". Of these, the first in particular has played an important role in feminism as well.

4. Mandatory exams

Attendance at teaching sessions is mandatory. In the event of absence, written supplementary assignments is required and should be submitted by the end of the course.

5. Forms of examination

a. The course is examined orally through an account of the course literature and active participation in during seminars. The course is also examined through a shorter essay and a short reflection that is submitted by the end of the course.

If the course paper and any supplements are not submitted on time, a re-examination will be given the following term or in connection with submission at the next course session.

b. Grading is done according to the grading scale pass or fail. The course paper is graded according to three dimensions, on a scale from insufficient to good. The lecture is assessed in one dimension, on the same scale.

Lecture and presentation:

Good: Analytical review of literature, relevant examples

Adequate: Clear review of relevant aspects

Inadequate: Irrelevant, imprecise or unclear review, reading from the course literature

Course paper: Scope

Good: Detailed and deep account of course literature

Adequate: Clear account Clear account of the course literature

Inadequate: Unclear or insufficient account of the course literature

Course paper: Argumentation

Good: Critical, convincing interpretation and argumentation

Adequate: Reasonable interpretations and arguments

Inadequate: Unreasonable interpretations, lack of arguments

Coursework paper: Comparison

Good: Clear discussion of important differences and similarities between theories/concepts

Adequate: Identification of important differences and similarities between theories/concepts

Inadequate: Unclear comparison between theories/concepts

To pass, the student's performance must be assessed as 'good' on at least two dimensions and as at least adequate on two dimensions, corresponding to C for students taking the course at advanced level.

A fail is awarded when fewer than two dimensions are assessed as 'good' or if any dimension is assessed as 'insufficient'.

A pass also requires the completion of compulsory tasks and full attendance.

c. Students who have received the grade fail has the right to undergo further examination as long as the course is given to achieve pass.

Students who have received a fail grade on an exam twice from an examiner have the right to request that another examiner be appointed to determine the grade of the exam. Such requests should be made to the director of studies.

Plagiarism, cheating, and unauthorized collaboration or use of AI

Part of your responsibility as a student is to know the rules for examination. Detailed information can be found on Stockholm University's website. Teachers are obliged to report suspected cheating and plagiarism to the Vice-Chancellor and the Disciplinary Board. Plagiarism and cheating is always a disciplinary matter and can lead to suspension. An example of plagiarism is copying a text verbatim or almost verbatim (including single sentences or lines of programming) and not indicating where it comes from. Always make sure that an acknowledgement and quotation marks are used when you submit text you did not write yourself. This even applies to texts you have written before (self-plagiarism). Cheating also includes, for example, the use of unauthorized aids, such as a mobile phone or generative AI, on a test. Having study groups together is stimulating and time-saving, but when it comes to examination assignments, you must be careful to work on your own (unless clearly stated otherwise), so as not to risk being counted as unauthorized collaboration. Generative AI, including ChatGPT, can be useful, for example in editing your own writing. However, the use of ChatGPT or similar tools in examination assignments without the examiner's explicit permission and without acknowledgement is considered cheating.

Interim

Students can request to be examined according to this syllabus up to three semesters after it has ceased to be valid. The request shall be made to the Director of Studies. This refers to all parts required to pass the course.

Limitations

If you have previously passed the course SO7020 eller SO7021, 7.5 credits at advanced level, or have studied a course that can be considered equivalent, you cannot be admitted to SO1FU33.

6. Form of instruction

The teaching is given in the form of brief lectures in combination with seminars on the texts in the compulsory course literature.

Mandatory attendance. Attendance at teaching sessions is mandatory. In the event of absence, written supplementary assignments is required and should be submitted by the end of the course.

Required readings: Current bibliography is available no later than two months before the start of the course.