



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Department of Sociology

## **A. PhD Course in Interactionism (Modern theory 7,5 p)**

This course has been reviewed by the Director of graduate studies on DAY-MONTH-YEAR.

## **B. Course Details, Assessment, Grades**

This course is offered by Carl-Göran Heidegren and/or David Wästerfors upon demand as a campus course on the readings listed under D, below. The course is examined on the basis of a written paper (in English or Swedish) of 10-15 pages and/or an oral examination. It is conducted in cooperation with the Department of Sociology at University of Copenhagen and the Department of Sociology and Social Work at Aalborg University.

The grades for the course are awarded as Pass or Fail. To receive a Pass, the student must fulfil the learning outcomes specified for the course and demonstrate an independent, reflective, well-informed and critical relationship to the issues presented in the course

## **C. Learning Outcomes**

The fact that social life consists of human interaction is something that sociologists take for granted, sometimes to the extent that they do not spend any time reflecting upon it in detail. What does it mean to approach a phenomenon from an interactionist angle? How can an interest in people's interactions contribute to sociological theorizing? In what position do we find interactionism in contemporary theory?

This course aims at distinguishing, comparing and discussing some variants of interactionism in modern sociology by the help of literature and the course participants' own examples, ideas and analyses. By the end of the course the student should be able to:

- 1) summarize the main outlines of interactionism covered in the reading material,
- 2) critically examine crucial contributions to the field of today's interactionist research,
- 3) apply some of the ideas in the literature to a research problem.

## **D. Admission Requirements**

Applicants must be admitted to the Ph.D. program at the Department of Sociology, Lund University, or be accepted as a visiting student to that program.

## **H. Course Literature**

### *Mandatory readings*

Buscatto, Marie (2010). "Using ethnography to study gender". Silverman David (ed.) *Qualitative Research*, London, Sage, 35-52.

Collins, Randall (2004). *Interaction Ritual Chains*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (selected chapters)

Goffman, Erving (1967). *Interaction Ritual. Essays on Face-to-Face Behavior*. New York: Anchor Books.

Joas, Hans (1997). *G. H. Mead. A contemporary re-examination of his thought*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT. (selected chapters)

Mead, George Herbert (1934). *Mind, Self, and Society from the Standpoint of a Social Behaviorist*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Simmel, Georg (1950/1964). *The Sociology of Georg Simmel. Translated, edited and with an introduction by Kurt H. Wolff*. New York: The Free Press. (selected chapters)

#### *Elective readings*

Anderson, Elijah (1999). *Code of the Street*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Asplund, Johan (1987). *Det sociala livets elementära former*. Göteborg: Korpen.

Asplund, Johan (2002). *Genom huvudet. Problemlösningens socialpsykologi*. Göteborg: Korpen.

Atkinson, Paul & Housley, William (2003). *Interactionism*. London: SAGE.

Buber, Martin (1923/1997). *Jag och du*. Falun: Dualis.

Carleheden, Mikael, Lidskog, Rolf & Roman, Christine (2007). (red.) *Social interaktion – förutsättningar och former*. Malmö: Liber.

Collins, Randall (2008). *Violence. A Micro-sociological Theory*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press.

Emerson, Robert M., Ferris, Kerry O. & Gardner, Carol Brooks (1998). "On Being Stalked." *Social Problems* 45:289-314.

Engdahl, Emma (2004). *A Theory of the Emotional Self. From the Standpoint of a Neo-Meadian*. Örebro: Örebro Studies in Sociology 6.

Fine, Gary Alan (1993). "The Sad Demise, Mysterious Disappearance, and Glorious Triumph of Symbolic Interactionism", *Annual Review of Sociology* 19, 61-87.

Goffman, Erving (1983). "The Interaction Order", *American Sociological Review* 48, 1-17.

Goffman, Alice (2009). "On The Run: Wanted Men in a Philadelphia Ghetto". *American Sociological Review* 74/2: 339-357.

Lundin, Elin (2004). *Motstånd och kreativitet. George Herbert Meads bidrag till aktör-strukturdebatten*. Stehag: Symposium.

Mead, George Herbert (1932/2002). *The Philosophy of the Present*. Amherst, N.Y.: Prometheus Books.

Rawls, Anne Warfield (1987). "The Interaction Order sui generis: Goffman's Contribution to Social Theory", *Sociological Theory* 5, 136-149.

Simmel, Georg (1908/1970). *Kamp*. Uppsala: Argos.

The Mead Project. <http://spartan.ac.brocku.ca/~lward/> Department of Sociology, Brock University, St. Catharines, Kanada.

Wästerfors, David (2005). "Skandalresponser". Sjöstrand, Glenn (red.) *Fiffelsverige. Sociologiska perspektiv på skandaler och fusk*. Malmö: Liber.

Wästerfors, David (2008). "Skandalen och publiken". Åkerström, Malin (red.) *Medier, brott och den aktiva publiken. En antologi om brottsrapportering och kreativ medieanvändning*. Lund: Bokbox.