



LUND UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social Sciences

GENERAL SYLLABUS

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24 May 2007

Reg. no A 10 S2007/147

Department of Sociology

General syllabus for third cycle studies in *Sociology*

The syllabus was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 18 April 2007, reg. no A 10 S2007/147, and the Board of the Department of Sociology on 24 May 2007.

1 Subject description

Sociology is a broad subject area that involves research on social and societal processes and structures on both the macro and micro levels. The research discipline covers a broad field – from global issues, to events and relationships between individuals and groups. Research in sociology is always based on theories aimed at generating theoretical and/or empirical knowledge about social and societal issues. The research tools used within sociology can be qualitative or quantitative, or involve historical analyses of current issues within different social areas.

Current research areas at the Department of Sociology can be found on the department website, www.sociology.lu.se.

2 Objective and outcomes of third cycle studies

The objective of third cycle studies in Sociology at the Department of Sociology, Lund University, is to provide students with specialised knowledge in Sociology and to train them to become independent and critical researchers with broad knowledge of social science theory, methodological skill and judgement, and the ability to conduct research projects.

The third cycle programme in Sociology leads to a degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

On completion of the programme, the doctoral student is to have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

Knowledge and understanding

For the degree of Doctor the third cycle student shall:

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field of Sociology as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field, and
- demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular

Competence and skills

For the degree of Doctor the third cycle student shall:

- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as the ability to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake research and other advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and to review and evaluate such work
- demonstrate through a thesis the ability to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through his or her own research
- demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings authoritatively in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge, and
- demonstrate the capacity to contribute to social development and support the learning of others both through research and education and in some other qualified professional capacity

Judgement and approach

For the degree of Doctor the third cycle student shall:

- demonstrate intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics, and
- demonstrate specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.

3 Admission requirements

The requirements for admission to third cycle courses and programmes are that the applicant meets the general and specific entry requirements, and is considered in other respects to have the ability required to benefit from the course or programme.

3.1 General admission requirements

A person meets the general admission requirements for third cycle courses and programmes if he or she

1. has been awarded a second cycle qualification, or
2. has satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second cycle, or
3. has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

The faculty board (or another body by delegation) may permit an exemption from the general admission requirements for an individual applicant, if there are special grounds.

Transitional provision: Those who meet the general entry requirements for doctoral programmes before 1 July 2007 will also be considered to meet the general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes after that, however, until no later than the end of June 2015.

3.2 Specific admission requirements

A person meets the specific admission requirements for third cycle studies in Sociology if he or she has been awarded a second cycle qualification in Sociology, or has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad. The qualification is to include independent projects of at least 30 credits or the equivalent, of which at least 15 credits were earned in the second cycle.

3.3. Credit transfer

If a student has successfully completed a second cycle higher education study programme or equivalent, he or she is entitled to transfer the credits awarded for the study programme to the third cycle programme, on condition that an examiner approves the course or programme for transfer. Credit transfer is assessed individually following a request by the student.

4 Admission and selection

Students are admitted to four years of full-time study leading to a degree of Doctor of Philosophy. A Licentiate degree can be taken after two years, as part of the programme. Under special circumstances, students can be admitted to a two-year programme leading to a Licentiate degree.

Admission of research students takes place in accordance with the Lund University Admission Rules for Third Cycle Education from 18 December 2006, reg. no I G 9 6251/2004, <http://www.lu.se/o.o.i.s/433>, and the Regulations for Third Cycle Education at the Faculty of Social Sciences from 31 May 2007.

4.1. Admission

The faculty aims to admit research students once a year, following a general advertisement of doctoral studentships at a set time of year. Students admitted to licentiate studies must re-apply in order to pursue studies for a PhD.

Only applicants who are appointed to a doctoral studentship, or who have been awarded a doctoral grant, are admitted to third cycle studies. However, applicants who are funded in some other way can be admitted if the department finds the funding to be guaranteed for the duration of the third cycle programme, so that the student will have sufficient time to spend on their studies and will be able to complete their doctoral degree within a period of eight years.

A funding plan must be available at the time of admission. The plan shall clarify the student's financial means during the entire study period.

4.2 Selection

A selection among applicants must be made if there are a limited number of places. The criteria for selection are the qualifications of the applicant at the time of application. The overriding criterion is the applicant's ability to benefit from the programme. Special emphasis is placed on the applicant's capacity to pursue research in the social sciences. The fact that an applicant is considered able to transfer credits from prior courses and study programmes or to be given credit for professional or vocational experience may not alone give the applicant priority over other applicants.

The selection involves an assessment of the applicant's previous study results, research qualifications, publications, reports, etc., as well as their documented professional experience. First and second cycle degree projects are accorded special weight, and they are assessed with regard to the quality and independence, and the breadth, depth, and relevance of the problem formulation.

The assessment of the applicants' qualifications is made by a specially appointed group of experts who will draw up a written proposal. The decision on admission is made by the head of department, based on the proposal.

Gender equality must always be taken into account. Priority will be given to the under-represented gender, relative to the gender representation among research students in the subject at Lund University, in cases of equally qualified applicants,

unless there are valid reasons to the contrary. Diversity is a desired goal of the faculty.

5 The programme of study

Third cycle studies leading to a degree of Doctor comprise four years of full-time study (240 credits). Part-time studies (at least 50 per cent) may be pursued but must be completed within eight years. Doctoral students are entitled but not obliged to complete a licentiate degree (120 credits) as part of their third cycle studies leading to a degree of Doctor.

5.1 Programme details

The programme leading to a degree of Doctor comprises 240 credits divided into courses worth 75 credits and a thesis (PhD thesis) worth 165 credits. Tuition is provided in the form of courses and seminars, as well as individual supervision of the thesis. Moreover, general seminars and guest lectures are provided.

For a PhD the doctoral student must have successfully completed all examinations in the programme and the PhD thesis.

5.2 Supervision

At least two supervisors shall be appointed for each doctoral student. One of them shall be nominated as the principal supervisor. The principal supervisor must have the qualifications of a reader and be employed at Lund University. The individual study plan must specify the duties and responsibilities of each of the supervisors. Doctoral students are entitled to supervision during the time deemed necessary for completing the programme within four years of full-time study. Supervision comprises both help with the orientation of studies and thesis work, as well as support throughout the studies. Doctoral students who so request shall be allowed to change supervisors.

5.3 Individual study plan

At the start of the programme, the student shall draw up an individual study plan in consultation with his or her supervisor that indicates how his or her studies are to be organised. This plan shall be revised annually. The individual study plan describes how the study programme for the individual student will be organised. Regulations and a template for individual study plans can be found in the Faculty's regulations for third cycle studies.

Doctoral students must register at the beginning of each semester and, in consultation with the supervisor, specify the degree of activity for the semester.

5.4 Courses and other components

The courses that can be included in the programme may be offered by the home department or by other departments at or outside Lund University.

Faculty-wide second cycle courses have syllabi stating the learning outcomes, content and available credits of the course. The credits available for transfer from courses taken at other faculties or higher education institutions are determined by the examiner. The courses to be taken by the individual student and to be included in the degree are to be specified in the individual study plan.

One of the grades Pass or Fail will be awarded for the thesis and other examinations within the programme. The examiner of courses is to be a professor or lecturer with the qualifications of a reader. Course examinations generally take

place during or in connection with tuition, but can take place at another time, on the student's request.

a) Courses

The courses, amounting to 75 credits, are to include:

- 1) Courses offered by the department or faculty
- 2) Courses offered by other higher education institutions in Sweden or abroad
- 3) Independent study courses

The courses include compulsory components for a degree of Doctor in Sociology. The student must pass at least 7.5 credits in each of the subjects theory of science, qualitative methodology and quantitative methodology, and 22.5 credits within classic and modern sociological theory.

The examiner and the student will together decide which courses can be included in the doctoral degree.

b) Research seminars and other components

As part of their studies and thesis work, research students shall participate in seminars on the research activities of the department and the thesis work of doctoral students. Doctoral students shall have the opportunity to present memoranda on theoretical and/or methodological issues in the research project, submit plans, papers and thesis chapters for discussion, and critically review the papers of fellow doctoral students.

The doctoral student is to present their thesis work at no less than three seminars: in the beginning, midway through, and towards the end of the programme.

The doctoral student is also to critically review the papers of fellow doctoral students, as well as be given the opportunity to present memoranda on theoretical and/or methodological issues in the research project and/or preliminary results.

5.5 PhD Thesis

The PhD thesis is the most important component of the programme, and amounts to 165 credits. The thesis is to be based on an independently pursued research project.

The PhD thesis can be designed either as a unified research study (monograph thesis) or as a number of research papers accompanied by an introductory summary placing the different papers in a context (compilation thesis).

A work by two or more authors may be approved as a PhD thesis if the contributions of the different authors are so clearly specified that they can be assessed individually.

The thesis is to be defended orally at a public defence. It is awarded one of the grades *Pass* or *Fail*. The grade is determined by an examining committee.

5.7 Departmental duties

A doctoral student can take on departmental duties for up to 20 per cent of the total period of study. The doctoral student is to be compensated with a corresponding extension of the total study period.

Doctoral students teaching on first or second cycle study programmes must have completed two weeks of introductory training in teaching and learning in higher education.

6 Further information

The regulations on third cycle studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences were approved by the Board of the Faculty on Social Sciences on 31 May 2007.

Information on admissions and application deadlines are provided by the Department of Sociology.