

## **Syllabus**

### **PhD Course in Modern Sociological Theory. 7,5 higher education credits, Third cycle.**

The course was adopted and the syllabus approved by the Board of the Department of Sociology, Lund University, April 2015. This syllabus is valid from the fall semester 2015.

#### **Course details**

The course is offered by the Department of Sociology as a third cycle course in modern sociological theory. The course will be given in cooperation with the Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen, and the Department of Sociology and Work Science, University of Gothenburg. The instruction language is English.

#### **Course content**

The course focuses on sociological theory during the period between roughly 1945 and 2000. It will discuss what is considered to be central theoretical developments and problems and also open up for discussions on what has been seen as more peripheral theoretical perspectives. The course aims both at orienting participants in different theoretical areas and traditions, and make possible in-depth studies of particular fields. The course aims at enriching participants ability to relate the development of sociological theory to relevant social, cultural and political contexts. The course will be based on mandatory readings and discussion seminars as well as on readings chosen by the participants according to their interest and in accordance with teachers.

The course may be related to two other courses given by the Department of Sociology in cooperation with Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen, and the Department of Sociology and Work Science, University of Gothenburg:

- Classical sociological theory (7,5 higher education credits, Third cycle)
- Contemporary sociological theory (7,5 higher education credits, Third cycle)

#### **Course goals**

On completion of the course, and with regard to its content, the PhD candidate shall be able to:

- present typical characteristics of the field of sociological theory during the period 1945–2000

- scholarly, critically and independently identify, assess and compare theories and concepts of society
- demonstrate a far-reaching ability to relate questions of theory to other core questions of the social sciences (epistemology, methodology, etc.)
- demonstrate a critical and independent theoretical faculty
- demonstrate a capacity to relate specific theories to relevant social, cultural and political contexts
- identify possible applications of theoretical perspectives on the subject of his/her own PhD project
- present advanced theoretical discussions orally and in text.

### **Teaching and assessment**

The course comprises a combination of lectures and seminars, and the writing of an academic essay. Lectures will cover larger theoretical problems and traditions as well as present more specific perspectives and issues. Seminars are based on lectures and mandatory readings. The course will comprise five days and take place in Lund and Copenhagen.

Assessment is based on oral and written elements. Participants are expected to attend all lectures and seminars and to contribute to these. Participants will also write an essay (5000 words, +/-10%) on a subject that is relevant for the course, making use of literature in addition to the mandatory reading.

### **Grades**

The grades used are Pass or Fail. To be awarded a Pass the PhD candidate must fulfil the requirements specified for the course.

### **Admission requirements**

Applicants must be admitted to a PhD programme. PhD candidates from the departments of sociology at the universities of Lund, Copenhagen and Gothenborg have priority.

### **Readings**

See separate reading list.