

Curriculum Sociology of Emotions, Autumn 2015 (7,5 ECTS)

The course is offered in collaboration between The Department of Sociology at the University of Copenhagen and the Department of Sociology and Work Science at the University of Gothenburg.

Organizers

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Course language

The teaching language of the course is English.

Course content

The social scientific study of emotions is inherently multidisciplinary as it involves biological and psychological as well as social findings on emotions. With this point of departure, the focus of the sociological discipline, as well as of this course, is on the social aspects of emotions. The course offers a broad overview of theories and research in the sociology of emotions, spanning from the classics to contemporary theories and research. Both structural and situational/interactional approaches to the role of emotions in social life are explored. Part of the course deals with ongoing research, through which there is opportunity to study and discuss various methods employed and ways to apply and develop theory in the analysis of empirical data.

The course begins with a series of lectures on the various sociological approaches to emotions, on the current debates within the field, and ongoing research projects. These lectures are followed by study time. A midterm seminar interrupts the studying period, where students present a paper abstract in which they employ chosen theories in the sociology of emotions as a framework to approach the research problems of their doctoral projects (ongoing or planned). For the remaining part of the course students develop their papers and expand their chosen area of specialization, adding relevant literature

beyond the required course literature. The course ends with the presentation of the full paper at a final seminar.

Written and oral presentations take place throughout the course. Participants partake in at least two seminars (midterm and final) where they present their own work as well as comment on the work of other participants.

The course offers both a broad perspective on the state of the art of the sociology of emotions, as well as in-depth specialization in the chosen area.

Location

The course is offered in collaboration between the Department of Sociology at the University of Copenhagen and the Department of Sociology and Work Science at the University of Gothenburg. The venue for the autumn of 2015 will be the Department of Sociology and Work Science at the University of Gothenburg for the lectures, and at the Department of Sociology at the University of Copenhagen for the full paper seminars. The midterm seminars will take place online. Advice on where to stay overnight and other details will be available by the end of June. Travel and accommodation costs as well as all meals need to be covered by each student's home department or privately.

To sign up for the course send an email with your name and affiliation and a 350 word abstract of the topic of your (planned or ongoing) doctoral research and a brief motivation of your interest in sociology of emotions, to:

Anna-Karin Wiberg anna-karin.wiberg@socav.gu.se

Sign-up deadline: 26 June.

Seminars

The purpose of the online midterm seminars is to discuss and reflect on the literature and to develop ideas for the course paper. All students in each group read and comment on all abstracts of the group. If possible the online seminar will be arranged in a virtual meeting space.

The final seminar is a paper seminar with appointed commentators on each paper.

Teachers will be participating in the seminars.

Examination

Learning outcomes will be examined through an individually written paper. The paper will be presented and discussed in a paper seminar. For their paper, students are required to engage with and refer to some mandatory parts of the literature (see the literature list!) and to a relevant amount of extra literature of their own choice pertinent to their paper topics (for suggestions see e.g. *Reference literature* in the literature). Students choose their own topic, preferably in line with their topic of doctoral research. It is encouraged that students write their paper as an article draft for later publication in an international journal.

Learning outcomes:

After completion of the course the doctoral student shall be able to:

1. *Knowledge and understanding*

- Present and discuss a broad overview of the different approaches in the sociology of emotions in general and of theoretical assumptions within the chosen areas of specialization in particular
- State and analyze the main empirical results within the chosen area of specialization
- Present and discuss current areas of conflict within the chosen area of specialization

2. Skills and abilities

- Orally and in writing present, explain and problematize research within the sociology of emotions in a format that meets international standards.
- In a more elaborate paper synthesize the theories and research within the chosen area of specialization and construct a theoretical framework to approach a specific research problem in the student's own ongoing or planned project.

3. Judgment and approach

- Critically discuss theoretical assumptions and empirical results within the sociology of emotions in general and the chosen area of specialization in particular.
- Critically discuss methods used within the chosen area of specialization.
- Critically discuss trends and future development of the chosen area of specialization.

Amount of words: 6000-8000 words including abstract and references (maximum).

Important dates:

7-8 September: Course introduction, lectures

21 September: Midterm seminar

8-9 October: Paper seminars

Deadlines:

16 September 5 pm: Paper proposals and abstracts posted online.

2 October 11 pm: Full paper uploaded online.

5 October 10 am: Commentators list is posted online. Each student will be the primary commentator on one paper and the secondary commentator on one more.

12 October 11 pm: Final papers submitted online.

Contact the organizers if you have any queries!

Grading and criteria

The grading scale encompasses the grades Fail (U), and Pass (G).

Pass = the student demonstrates satisfactory fulfillment of the learning outcomes (see syllabus) throughout the course and via the submission of an exam paper.

Course evaluation

Course evaluation is organized by the teachers on the paper seminars.

