

Revised course description for HGO4011 from H21

HGO4011 – Philosophy and Methodology of Human Geography

Green = new source

Red = deleted source

Course content

This course is a compulsory component of the master's degree in human geography. The purpose is to provide students with an overview of the range of scholarship done across geography's sub-disciplines, and to illustrate similarities and differences in their theoretical foundations. The course starts by introducing the core concepts of space, place, scale and environment that help give coherence to geography, and a brief history of the discipline. The majority of the sessions are dedicated to an exploration of the geographical sub-disciplines and their theoretical and methodological commitments. A common theme of borders ties the lectures together and shows the importance of theory for empirical research, with the aim of facilitating the development of the student's own master's thesis research project. The course finishes by introducing students to the fundamentals of research design: how to connect research questions, theory and methods. Lectures and seminars are given, including a seminar on master thesis topic development.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge

- Understand how the discipline of geography has developed over time.
- Distinguish between current, cutting-edge research in different sub-disciplines.
- Comprehend core theoretical concepts in geography and how they are applied to research across the discipline.

Skills

- Apply core concepts and theoretical frameworks in human geography with a high degree of understanding and reflection.
- Evaluate the relation between different theoretical frameworks, methodological choices and research questions within research across the discipline.
- Develop analytical writing and reading skills at a high academic standard.
- Design a research topic and ask analytical questions about that topic.

General competence

- Critically analyze strategies for acquiring knowledge within human geography.
- Discriminate between theoretical and methodological choices that are relevant for your master's thesis.

Teaching

Course tuition consists of a combination of lectures and seminars, including a seminar on master thesis topic development. For an overview, please refer to the detailed teaching plan on the semester page.

Compulsory instruction and coursework

Participation in at least 80% of the lectures and seminars is mandatory.

Completed and approved compulsory course work is valid as long as the course is offered. Students who have failed to complete the compulsory attendance cannot take the exam.

Examination

The exam is a one-week home exam. The maximum length of the home exam is 3000 words (excluding references).

The exam question will be available from 10.00 am on the day of the exam and must be submitted at 12.00 PM, 7 days later.

[Previous exams and examiner guidelines](#)

Submit assignments in Inspera

You submit your assignment in the digital examination system Inspera. [Read about how to submit your assignment.](#)

Use of sources and citation

You should familiarize yourself with the rules that apply to [the use of sources and citations](#). If you violate the rules, you may be suspected of [cheating/attempted cheating](#).

Language of examination

The examination text is given in English. You may submit your response in English, Norwegian, Swedish or Danish.

Grading scale

Grades are awarded on a scale from A to F, where A is the best grade and F is a fail. Read more about [the grading system](#).

Explanations and appeals

- [Explanation of grades and appeals](#)

Resit an examination

If you are sick or have another valid reason for not attending the regular exam, we offer a [postponed exam](#) later in the same semester.

See also our information about [resitting an exam](#).

Withdrawal from an examination

It is possible to take the exam up to 3 times. If you [withdraw from the exam](#) after the deadline or during the exam, this will be counted as an examination attempt.

Special examination arrangements

Application form, deadline and requirements for [special examination arrangements](#).

Evaluation

The course is subject to continuous evaluation. Midterm and end of semester evaluations are to be expected.