

GENERAL SYLLABUS FOR THIRD-CYCLE PROGRAMMES IN GENDER STUDIES

This syllabus applies to programmes leading to a Doctor of Philosophy and to programmes leading to a Licentiate degree. This document is subordinate to the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance and Södertörn University's local *Regulations for Third-Cycle Education at Södertörn University* (reg. no. 1417/11/2011).

1. Qualitative targets

Gender Studies examines constructions of and ideas about gender and sexuality from a range of contemporary and historical perspectives. Particular emphasis is placed on how different social and power structures interact in the establishment and creation of social conditions, identity, knowledge and practices that create cultural meaning in local, regional and global processes. Extra focus is placed on how knowledge about power and gender is produced. Gender Studies is a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary subject, thus gathering theories and methods from a range of academic traditions and practices, especially from research in the social sciences and humanities. A multidisciplinary approach is used and research often specialises in issues of great cultural and social relevance. The current research profile can be found on the Gender Studies website.

Third-cycle education in Gender Studies aims to advance the doctoral student's knowledge of the subject's core areas and to provide him/her with excellent skills for continued research and other related activities.

The aim of third-cycle education is to provide the doctoral student with skills in the critical, autonomous and academically sound execution of competent research, including the ability to plan, execute and present the research. Another aim is to provide the doctoral student with good skills in reflection and self-reflection.

The intended learning outcomes of the Doctor of Philosophy in Gender Studies have been validated on the basis of the provisions found in the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance. The doctoral student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- show broad knowledge within, and a systematic understanding of, the field of Gender Studies, in addition to deep and contemporary specialist knowledge of a particular area in this research field,
- demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and the Gender Studies methodology relevant to the thesis' area and other relevant methods in particular
- critically and reflectively interpret, evaluate and place in a historic context, knowledge relating to central theories of concepts in Gender Studies
- through advanced knowledge of different scientific methods evaluate different sources' relevance to analyses in Gender Studies and demonstrate advanced knowledge of central epistemological and theoretical issues in the research field of Gender Studies

Competence and skills

- demonstrate advanced abilities in scientific analysis and historiography, as well as independent critical ability and the assessment of complex cultural and social phenomena that are relevant to Gender Studies
- demonstrate the ability to, within the research area of Gender Studies, formulate relevant problems/questions in a nuanced, reflective, systematic and autonomous manner and with academic rigour, as well as demonstrating good abilities to adequately conduct research within a given timeframe in an epistemologically and methodologically satisfactory manner
- demonstrate advanced skills in reviewing and evaluating scientifically conducted research tasks
- demonstrate a good level of competence in presenting and discussing scientific issues verbally and in writing in an autonomous, reflective and critical manner
- demonstrate through a thesis the ability to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through his or her own research in Gender Studies

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate advanced knowledge, intellectual autonomy and academic adequacy in how Gender Studies research is conducted, as well as insights into the discipline's contributions to scientific development
- demonstrate advanced knowledge of and a critical attitude to central ideas within Gender Studies in a nuanced and reflective manner
- demonstrate in-depth insight into how issues of gender and sexual politics can be discussed from different academic perspectives
- demonstrate disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments ethics that are relevant to the research field

Thesis

- In order to be awarded a doctoral degree, the doctoral student must have completed a thesis in the field of Gender Studies (doctoral thesis) worth 165 credits and received a pass grade.

2. Entry requirements

2.1 General provisions

In order to be admitted to third-cycle studies, the applicant must fulfil the general entry requirements and the specific entry requirements as stated below. The applicant must also be assessed as possessing the necessary capability to assimilate the content of the degree.

2.2 General entry requirements

General entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes are met if the person has been awarded a second-cycle qualification; has satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in Gender Studies at second-cycle level; or has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad. If there are special grounds, the Faculty Board may permit an exemption from the general entry requirements for an individual applicant.

2.3 Specific entry requirements

The specific entry requirements are fulfilled by a student who has knowledge equivalent to 90 credits in Gender Studies, including a degree project worth at least 15 credits at second-cycle level, or who has acquired the equivalent knowledge abroad or through previous studies. If there are special grounds, the Faculty Board may permit an exemption from the specific entry requirements for an individual applicant.

The ability to assimilate academic material in Swedish and English and a command of the language necessary for work on the thesis, are prerequisites for completing the degree programme.

The requirement to assimilate academic material in Swedish does not apply to doctoral students who are admitted to the Baltic and East European Graduate School (BEEGS).

3. Admission

3.1 Application

Application for admission to a third-cycle programme shall be submitted to Södertorn University.

3.2 Admission and selection

The number of doctoral students admitted may be no greater than that which can be offered supervision, acceptable study conditions and a plan for student financing. A research student who is employed on a doctoral studentship is assumed to conduct his/her studies on a full-time basis, including hours for any work on behalf of the academic school. Limitations on admission to third-cycle programmes are applied if the number of eligible applicants is greater than the number of available places. The research area of Critical and Cultural Theory shall, as the preparatory body for the Faculty Board's decision on admission, observe the following criteria:

1. The applicant's merits and expertise
2. The quality of the research project
3. The suitability and feasibility of the research project as a doctoral project
4. The funding plan
5. Whether issues of research ethics have been considered
6. Whether the total supervisory competence can provide a high level of professional supervision and the relevant expertise.

In association with admission to BEEGS, the research plan will be assessed according to its basis in the graduate school's specific geographic area: its orientation to the Baltic states or Eastern Europe.

The basis for selection among the eligible applicants to third-cycle studies in Gender Studies comprises documented qualifications and the assessed level of ability to assimilate the third-cycle degree programme. The initial selection is made on the basis of documented material provided by the applicant, such as credits, written work, the appended research plan (where appropriate) and any vocational certifications. The applicant's merits and expertise are assessed as regards creativity and academic maturity, the capacity for stringency and problem formulation, independent judgement and critical analysis, the ability to comply with a given timeframe and communication and cooperation skills.

Other factors in decision-making, such as interviews with applicants, may be significant. The expertise possessed by the teachers linked to third-cycle education and aspects relating to equal opportunities are also taken into account during the admissions procedure.

3.3 Admission decisions

The admissions process complies with the *Regulations for Third-Cycle Education at Södertörn*

University. The Faculty Board is responsible for decisions regarding the admission of students to third-cycle programmes.

4. Programme content

4.1 General

In total, a doctoral degree covers 240 credits, of which 75 credits are from courses and 165 credits are from the thesis. Of the course credits, 52.5 credits are obligatory (22.5 credits from obligatory courses common to the research area, and 30 credits from subject-specific obligatory courses). Doctoral students at BEEGS must study an additional obligatory course worth 7.5 credits. The remaining 22.5 credits or 15 credits (for doctoral students at BEEGS) are made up of elective courses.

A Licentiate degree programme covers 120 credits and consists of courses worth a total of 52.5 credits and an academic paper worth 67.5 credits (60 + 60 credits for doctoral students at BEEGS). Such a degree may either be the final aim of the programme or a stage on the way to a doctoral degree. The doctoral student should begin his/her academic paper during the first year of the programme and thus conduct research activities in parallel with course-based studies.

Active participation in the research environment's seminar activities is also included in third-cycle programmes.

4.2 Courses

For a doctoral degree, the courses are:

Obligatory courses within the research area:

- Introduction to Critical and Cultural Theory (7.5 credits)
- Truth, Construction and Subjectivity: Contemporary Issues in the Theory of Scientific Knowledge (7.5 credits)
- Methods in the field of Critical and Cultural Theory (7.5 credits)

Subject-specific obligatory courses:

- Situated knowledge and feminist method (7.5 credits)
- Culture, nature, materiality (7.5 credits)
- Bodies, space and emotions (7.5 credits)
- Transnational feminism (7.5 credits)

Obligatory course for doctoral students at BEEGS:

- Contemporary Research into the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe (7.5 credits)

Elective courses

- Elective courses are given in the form of taught courses or independent study, and are chosen in consultation with a supervisor.

Doctoral students who teach must have completed a course in teaching and learning in higher education.

Courses at a minimum of second-cycle level and which are not included in the specific entry requirements may, after approval from the Faculty Board, have credits transferred to the third-cycle programme within the quota for elective courses.

A Licentiate degree includes the following courses:

Obligatory courses within the research area:

- Introduction to Critical and Cultural Theory (7.5 credits)
- Truth, Construction and Subjectivity: Contemporary Issues in the Theory of Scientific Knowledge (7.5 credits)
- Methods in the field of Critical and Cultural Theory (7.5 credits)

Subject-specific obligatory courses:

- Situated knowledge and feminist method (7.5 credits)
- Culture, nature, materiality (7.5 credits)
- Bodies, space and emotions (7.5 credits)

Obligatory course for doctoral students at BEEGS:

- Contemporary Research into the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe (7.5 credits)

Elective courses

- Elective courses are given in the form of taught courses or independent study, and are chosen in consultation with a supervisor.

Courses at a minimum of second-cycle level and which are not included in the specific entry requirements may, after approval from the Faculty Board, have credits transferred to the third-cycle programme within the quota for elective courses.

4.3 Doctoral thesis

To be awarded a doctoral degree, the doctoral student must write an academic thesis that is worth 165 credits. The thesis shall be based on autonomous research work and be of significance to research within the chosen field. The thesis shall either be a unified and continuous piece of academic work (monograph thesis) or a compilation of academic works that the doctoral student has written alone or with co-authors, to which a summarising discussion has been added (compilation thesis). The works shall be of such quality that they can be published in recognised academic journals.

The doctoral thesis shall be defended at a public defence. Regulations about the public defence of doctoral theses are found in the Higher Education Ordinance and *Regulations for Third-Cycle Education at Södertörn University*.

4.4 Licentiate thesis

To be awarded a Licentiate degree, the doctoral student must write an academic thesis that is worth 67.5 credits (60 credits for doctoral students at BEEGS). The thesis must be based on autonomous research work. The thesis shall be defended at a public seminar. The Faculty Board and the research area for doctoral studies decide upon the specific forms for the presentation of the thesis.

4.5 Additional information

Additional information about third-cycle programmes and courses can be provided by Gender Studies.

5. Programme organisation

5.1 Individual study plan

The doctoral student shall draw up a plan for his/her third-cycle education in consultation with the principal supervisor. This is then validated by the Faculty Board. An individual study plan

must be drawn up at the start of the programme and be approved by the Faculty Board no later than five months after the start of the doctoral student's employment; it must be reviewed at least once each year. The doctoral student and the supervisor must confirm in writing that they have read the individual study plan and any revisions to it. A funding plan for each doctoral student that covers the entire programme is drawn up by the board for the research area and appended to the individual study plan; it is regularly followed up. The principal supervisor is responsible for providing advice as regards the focus, scope and execution of work on the thesis.

5.2 Teaching

Teaching is primarily provided in the form of lectures, seminars and supervision. During the period of study, the doctoral student must participate in academic activities by attending seminars, guest lectures, etc. The doctoral student may be provided with the opportunity to participate in teaching and knowledge testing at another faculty or another higher education institution. The doctoral student must be offered the opportunity to participate in international conferences and courses.

5.3 Supervision

Students in third-cycle education are entitled to supervision that is equivalent to four years of full-time study for a doctoral degree and to two years for a Licentiate degree. At least two supervisors must be appointed for each doctoral student. One of them shall be the principal supervisor. This person is appointed from among the subject's professors and docents. The assistant supervisor must have received a doctoral degree. Supervisors are selected in consultation with the doctoral student. The supervisors have overarching responsibility for supervision. They must have completed a course in third-cycle supervision or be assessed as having the equivalent competence. The choice of thesis subject must take place in consultation between the doctoral student and principal supervisor and should take place during the first semester of the programme.

A doctoral student is able to change supervisor if he/she requests it. The Faculty Board validates the guidelines for evaluation of the right to supervision and other resources for doctoral students.

6. Examination

Knowledge testing takes place through written or oral examination. Tests and examinations are graded as either Pass or Fail. The principal supervisor is examiner for the courses for which no specific examiner has been appointed. The doctoral thesis shall be reviewed by an external examiner at a public defence. It is assessed by an examining committee in accordance with the provisions of the Higher Education Ordinance and the Regulations for Third-Cycle Education at Södertörn University. During grading, consideration must be paid to both the content of the thesis and its public defence. The thesis shall be awarded a grade of either pass or fail by a specially appointed examining committee

The Faculty Board decides upon a university-wide form for the presentation of the Licentiate thesis. The research area also creates area or subject-specific routines for its third-cycle subject areas. The Licentiate thesis, which does not need to be published in print unless there are special circumstances, shall be reviewed by a faculty examiner and publically defended. The chairman of the examining committee must have at least docent-level competence. The examining committee grades the thesis as either Pass or Fail.