

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Anthropological Perspectives on Organizations

Antropologiska perspektiv på organisationer

7.5 Higher Education Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	SAM111
Valid from:	Spring 2011
Date of approval:	2007-06-11
Changed:	2010-12-20
Department:	Department of Social Anthropology
Subject	Social Anthropology

Decision

New literature list approved by the Departmental board 2010-12-20.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements course

60hp/ 40p. or the equivalent within the Faculty of Social Sciences and/or the Humanities.
English B or equivalent.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
M111	Anthropological perspectives on organizations	7.5

Course content

One of the central components of social anthropology is the understanding of different ways of organizing society. Organizations of various kinds, such as states, transnational companies, international organizations, and

local and translocal NGOs play a vital role in the shaping of people's lives and of communities around the world. A great portion of our lives are spent living within, working within or being influenced by different types of organizations. The course deals with anthropological perspectives on organizations in their varying forms.

The aim is to investigate the concept of organization from an anthropological perspective and to understand how organizational forms are manifested in different social and cultural contexts, and what cultural patterns and flows that are nested into them. Against the background of contemporary processes of globalization and social change, the role of organizations in these processes is discussed in comparative perspective.

Learning outcomes

After having passed the course satisfactorily the student should:

*Be able to give an account of central anthropological concepts with relevance for organization

*Be able to describe the central problems in the course literature in relation to the empirical content of the readings

*Be able to compare, relate and discuss the different problems and questions that are raised in the literature, with emphasis on epistemological and methodological problems

*Be able to critically analyse, problematise and reflect on anthropological production of knowledge in relation to organizations, with emphasis on eventual epistemological, methodological and ethical problems raised during the lectures and in the literature.

Education

The course consists of lectures, seminars, and hand-in assignments.

The course evaluation will assess how well-related the implementation of the course was in regard to achieving the learning objectives.

The course is given in English.

Forms of examination

Examination will be carried out through a series of assignments to be turned in throughout the course.

Exams and assignments may be written in Swedish or English.

In order to receive a grade for the course you must be formally registered for it and attend at least 50% of the scheduled classes.

Grades will be assigned according to a seven-step, goal-related grading scale (A-F). Students receiving the grades Fx or F (failing) have the possibility of supplementing their assignments or exams and improving their grades. Supplemented or late assignments or exams cannot receive a grade higher than a C (Exceptions may be made in certain situations after consultation with the Director of Studies).

Students receiving the grades Fx or F on an exam may take the exam at least four more times (as long as the course is being given) in order to attain a grade of at least E. In order to get a final grade for the course, all assignments and exams must be passed with at least a grade of at least E on the seven-step grading scale.

Students who have received at least an E may not take an exam again to attempt to get a higher grade.

Students who have received an Fx or and F on a course exam twice from the same examiner may request another examiner to grade the exam. Such requests should be directed to the Department Board.

Grading criteria:

A - Excellent

* Demonstrates an excellent and well-expressed understanding of the empirical material and theoretical issues treated during the course

* Contains a high level of originality and critical synthesis

* Demonstrates a high level of comparative ability where literature from earlier studies is used in the analysis

* Contains independent reflections and interpretations that are based on the course readings

B - Very Good

* Shows a high level of independence and originality in the discussion and analysis of the course literature

* Demonstrates a high level of understanding of the relationship between theory and empirical material

* Indicates a high level of comparative ability

* Contains well-written and independent reflections and analyses which are based on the course literature

C - Good

* Shows a thorough understanding of the course literature and the important issues which the course discusses

* Demonstrates an ability to make use of this understanding in well-structured arguments and presentations

* Shows an ability to contextualize and compare important parts of the course readings

* Has produced a well-written exam with a clear introduction, body and conclusion which are related to the exam question

D - Satisfactory

* A careful review of the course reading has been undertaken

* Information from the obligatory lectures and seminars has also been used and integrated into the answers to the exam questions

* The exam is well-structured and well-written

* Shows a good understanding of the literature and the important empirical and theoretical issues discussed in the course

* A well-written text with a clear introduction, body and conclusion

E - Sufficient

* The student shows that s/he has read the literature and has an acceptable level of knowledge and understanding of the material covered and its most important issues

* Demonstrates an acceptable amount of knowledge based on the lectures and seminars of the course

* Provides a text that is structured based on the examination questions

Fx - Insufficient

* Shows a limited knowledge and understanding of the literature and its central themes

* Lacks appropriate organization and structure in exam answers

* Makes uncontextualized claims without backing them up

* Has made a number of factual errors in the answers to the exam questions

* Provides a too brief and unstructured text

F - Unacceptable

* Demonstrates very limited knowledge and understanding of the literature and central issues of the course

* Provides answers to exam questions that are irrelevant or erroneous

* Provides answers which are so short as to make evaluation impossible

Interim

Students may demand that examination according to this syllabus be provided no more than three times during a two-year period after the course has ceased to be given. Demand for examination should be directed to the Departmental Board. Other obligatory parts of the course are also included in this rule.

Required reading

Bate S.P. 1997. 'Whatever Happened to Organizational Anthropology? A Review of the Field of Organizational Ethnography and Anthropological Studies'. Human Relations, 50 (9): 1147-1175.

Noon, Mike and Rick Delbridge. 1993. 'News from behind my hand: Gossip in organizations', *Organization Studies* 4(1): 23-36.

Watson, James L., ed. 2006 [1997], *Golden Arches East: McDonald's in East Asia*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Wright, Susan. 1994. "Culture" in anthropology and organizational studies. In *The Anthropology of Organizations*. Routledge, pp 1-32.

Herzfeld, Michael, 1993 *The social production of indifference : exploring the symbolic roots of Western bureaucracy*. Chicago University Press. (207 s)

Shore, Cris, 2000 *Building Europe : the cultural politics of European integration*, Routledge (258 s)

Please note that there may be substitutions of course literature when necessary.