Critical Perspectives on Nordic Gender Equalities
Teachers

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For general information on research, courses, teaching, etc at Umeå centre for gender studies

UCGS is housed in Samhällsvetarhuset, on the 4th floor.

The course platform Cambro will be used for communication, continuous information, publication of papers and examinations, etc.
Welcome to *Critical Perspectives on Nordic Gender Equalities*

Course outline

This is a cross-disciplinary course and will enrich and complement courses in many different programmes. The course is organized around active student participation and consists of lectures, seminars and written examinations. The course is taught in English.

The course deals with gender equality as political ideal and practice in the Nordic region. Taking a historical approach, the course will address questions such as: How and when was the issue of gender equality placed on the political agenda in the Nordic countries? How is gender equality understood and Practised today? What definition are there of the concept gender equality? Can Nordic countries be conceived as egalitarian? Emphasis is on different ways of analysing and understanding democracy, rights and welfare by introductions of critical perspectives, as well as different constellations of power in relation to gender equality as a political ideal. Specific emphasis is on examining the ways in which present day Nordic societies in general and gender equality in particular are marked by processes of colonialism, heteronormativity and neoliberalism.

**Module 1: Gender and Politics in the Nordic countries**

This module begins with an introduction to the history and organization of Nordic gender equality. It gives both historical overviews about the organisation of issues and policies of gender equality in the Nordic countries, as well as insights into the contemporary discussion on gender equality in Nordic politics. Alongside with this overview, we will discuss how violence against women has been politicised and included into gender equality policies in the Nordic countries. In this module we will also discuss post-structuralist theories on feminism and politics and through these approaches scrutinize the various meanings of gender equality. Here, parts of the classical research on Nordic gender equality will be discussed and critically examined. The examination of module 1 consists of an individually written assignment based on a case study, also presented orally in class.

**Module 2: Critical perspectives on Nordic gender equality**

The second half of the course enlarges the field by entering in more depth into some critical perspectives and studies on gender equality. Three central areas of debate and research are in focus: sexualities, colonialism and neo-liberalism. We will discuss how the Nordic ideal gender equality is embedded in and/or contests both heteronormative discourses as well as nationalist assumptions about “the Nordic”. The dual earner/dual carer model will be discussed from the position of marginalised female domestic workers and in relation to class. The complex relationship of liberalism and gender equality is furthermore examined in the last theme on gender equality through economic growth. *This part of the course ends with a written home examination that focuses in depth on gender equality and how policies of gender equality in the Nordic countries are formed within discourses of class, sexuality and race/ethnicity.*
**Form of instruction**
Teaching is conducted through lectures and seminars. *Seminars are compulsory* and students who are unable to participate will be given extra examination tasks. Emphasis is placed on students’ independent work.

Seminar completions can be handed in no longer than 2 weeks after the first module ends, and no longer than 3 weeks after the course ends and must be up-loaded on the assigned place on Cambro. After that, the possibility to upload completions is closed. All completions must be handed in for the course to be considered completed.

Examination consists of compulsory seminars and two written home-assignments. A re-examination is made possible, no later than two months after the first occasion, but not earlier than ten workdays after the results of the regular assignment has been announced.

**Course literature**
The course literature consists of books and articles, and is available as e-books and e-articles, or can be found at Umeå University library. Links to some titles are available in the complete reading list in the curriculum:
Schedule

**MODULE 1: GENDER AND POLITICS IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES**

**Thursday, March 23**
10.15-12.00
**Introduction:** Registration & introduction

13.15-15.00
**Lecture Theme 1:** Welfare state regimes and gender equality: limitations or possibilities?

**Wednesday 29/3**
13.15-15.00
**Seminar Theme 1:** Welfare state regimes and gender equality: limitations or possibilities?

**Compulsory literature:**


**Tuesday 4/4**
13.15-15.00
**Lecture Theme 2:** Violence and Gender Equality

**Friday 7/4**
13.15-15.00
**Seminar Theme 2:** Violence and Gender Equality

**Compulsory literature:**

Burman, Monica (2012), Immigrant women facing male partner violence – gender, race and power in Swedish alien and criminal law. feminists@law 2(1). Accessible at:
http://journals.kent.ac.uk/index.php/feministsatlaw/index

The Danish Government, National Strategy to Prevent Violence in Intimate Relations,

Government Communication 2007/08:39, *Action plan to combat men’s violence against women, violence and oppression in the name of honour and violence in same-sex relations*.


**Monday 10/4**
10.15-12.00
**Lecture Theme 3** Critical perspectives on the historical development of Nordic gender equality  
**Ub336**  
**S303** Liselotte Eriksson

**Wednesday 12/4**
10.15-12.00
**Seminar Theme 3** Critical perspectives on the historical development of Nordic gender equality  
**Ub336**  
**Liselotte Eriksson**

**Compulsory literature.**


**Wednesday 12/4**
13.15-15.00
**Lecture Theme 2:** Nordic colonial complicity and gender equality  
**Ub336**  
**Linda Sandberg**
Monday 17/4 -- Friday 21/4
Own work with case-study assignment

Monday 24/4
10.15-12.00
Seminar Theme 2: Nordic colonial complicity and gender equality
Linda Sandberg

Compulsory literature:


*Policy texts will be added, approx. 50 pages.*

Tuesday 25/4
Deadline examination case study paper (up-load on cambro)

Thursday 27/4
13.15-15.00
Case study seminar
Liselotte Eriksson
Module 2: Critical Perspectives on Nordic Gender Equality

2017-04-28 - 2017-06-04

Friday, 28/4
13.15-15.00
Lecture Theme 3: Poststructuralism and the reformulation of feminist politics
S201 Sara Edenheim

Wednesday, 3/5
10.15-12.00
Seminar Theme 3: Poststructuralism and the reformulation of feminist politics
S201 Sara Edenheim

Compulsory literature:

Reference literature:

13.15-15.00
Lecture Theme 4: Gender equality and neo-liberalism
S303 (NOTE!) Malin Rönnblom

Monday, 8/5
10.15-12.00
Seminar Theme 4: Gender equality and neo-liberalism
S303 Malin Rönnblom

Compulsory literature:


Policy texts will be added, approx. 50 pages.

13.15-15.00
Lecture Theme 1: Heteronormativity, sexuality and gender equality
S303
Sara Edenheim

Monday, 15/5
10.15-12.00
Seminar Theme 1: Heteronormativity, sexuality and gender equality
S303
Sara Edenheim

Compulsory literature:


Policy texts will be added, approx. 50 pages.

13.15-15.00
Lecture Theme 4: The concept of Gender Equality
S303
Malin Rönnblom

Friday, 19/5
10.15-12.00
Seminar Theme 4: The concept of Gender Equality
S303
Malin Rönnblom

Compulsory literature:


Policy texts will be added, approx. 50 pages.

Friday, 19/5 Examination assignment on Cambro

Friday 2/6 Deadline examination paper (up-load on Cambro).