Critical Perspectives on Nordic Gender Equalities
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UCGS Homepage: www.umu.se/ucgs/
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 and what role of the organization of the welfare state played in generating improved gender equality. The module gives both historical overviews about the organisation of issues and policies of gender equality in a Nordic context, as well as how the construction of the welfare state implied inclusion and exclusion of groups and how the welfare state became conditioned. In this module we will also discuss post-structuralist approaches to gender equality and the welfare state. 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 research proposal, 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: [https://www.umu.se/utbildning/kursplan/2kc009/](https://www.umu.se/utbildning/kursplan/2kc009/)
## Schedule

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

**2019-03-26 - 2019-05-02**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 26</td>
<td>10.15-11.00</td>
<td>S303</td>
<td>Introduction: Registration &amp; introduction</td>
<td>Liselotte Eriksson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13.15-15.00</td>
<td>S303</td>
<td>Lecture Theme 1: Welfare state regimes and gender equality: limitations or possibilities?</td>
<td>Liselotte Eriksson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 29/3</td>
<td>13.15-15.00</td>
<td>S303</td>
<td>Seminar Theme 1: Welfare state regimes and gender equality: limitations or possibilities?</td>
<td>Liselotte Eriksson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 2/4</td>
<td>13.15-15.00</td>
<td>S303</td>
<td>Lecture Theme 2: Building the welfare state: inclusion and exclusion</td>
<td>Liselotte Eriksson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Compulsory literature:


**Friday 5/4**
10.15-12.00  S303
**Seminar Theme 2: Building the welfare state: inclusion and exclusion**  
Liselotte Eriksson

**Compulsory literature:**


https://doi.org/10.1080/13563467.2017.1417369


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**Monday 8/4**
13.15-15.00  S303
**Lecture Theme 3: Welfare effects of gender equality**  
Frida Skog

**Friday 12/4**
10.15-12.00  S303
**Seminar Theme 3: Welfare effects of gender equality**  
Frida Skog

**Compulsory literature.**

*Articles of own choice for the seminar will be added*

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**Monday 15/4 -- Monday 29/4**
**Own work with research proposal**

**Monday 29/4**  
**Deadline examination research proposal (up-load on cambro)**

**Thursday 2/5**
13.15-15.00  Samvetet  
**Research proposal seminar**  
Liselotte Eriksson
## Module 2: Critical Perspectives on Nordic Gender Equality

2019-05-03 – 2019-06-09

**Friday, 3/5**
13.15-15.00 S505
Lecture Theme 3: Poststructuralism and the reformulation of feminist politics

**Wednesday, 8/5**
10.15-12.00 S301
Seminar Theme 3: Poststructuralism and the reformulation of feminist politics

### Compulsory literature:


### Reference literature:


**Friday 10/5**
10.15-12.00 S303
Lecture Theme 4: The concept of Gender Equality

**Wednesday, 15/5**
10.15-12.00 S301
Seminar Theme 4: The concept of Gender Equality

### Compulsory Literature:


Policy texts will be added, approx. 50 pages.

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

Monday, 20/5

10.15-12.00 S301
Seminar Theme 1: Heteronormativity, sexuality, and gender equality

Compulsory literature:


Törnqvist, Maria "From threat to promise. The changing position of gender quota in the Swedish debate on Women’s Political representation. in *Critical Studies of Gender Equalities. Nordic dislocations, dilemmas and contradictions*. Ed. by Eva Magnusson, Malin Rönnblom & Harriet Silius. Makadam publishers, pp 75-93.

Policy texts will be added, approx. 50 pages.

13.15-15.00 S505
Lecture Theme 4: Gender equality and neo-liberalism

Tuesday, 28/5

10.15-12.00 HC106
Seminar Theme 4: Gender equality and neo-liberalism

Compulsory literature:


Policy texts will be added, approx. 50 pages.

Monday, 27/5  Examination assignment on Cambro

June, 9  Deadline examination paper (up-load on Cambro).