



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

SLUkurs

Syllabus

PNSo236 Critical perspectives on agrarian change, 7.5 credits

Syllabus approved

2022-05-16

Subjects

Rural Development/Other Social Science/Agricultural History/Landscape Architecture/Landscape Planning/Environmental Communication

Education cycle

Third cycle

Grading scale

Pass / Failed

The requirements for attaining different grades are described in the course assessment criteria which are contained in a supplement to the course syllabus. Current information on assessment criteria shall be made available at the start of the course.

Language

English

Prior knowledge

Admittance to a PhD program.

Objective, including learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student should:

- be well acquainted with the major theoretical approaches for understanding agrarian change, including classical political economy approaches and the recent 'more than human' turn in critical agrarian studies;
- acquire a detailed understanding of the drivers of agrarian change in the era of industrialization/modernization and how these drivers have played out in different times and places;
- be able to connect theories of agrarian change to other important trends/debates, including food security, the green revolution, and environmental degradation/climate change.

Content

This PhD course aims to give PhD students an overview of critical agrarian studies, focusing on both historical and contemporary agrarian change. The main focus is understanding key conceptualizations of agrarian change and its drivers, from the era of agricultural modernization and industrialization, beginning in the mid-1800s, through the current restructuring of agro-food systems around the world. Hence, this course will deal with varied transformations in different time periods and places in the Global South and North (building on both teachers' and students' familiarity with cases), and theoretical debates about the significance of these transformations, tracing how discussions in agrarian political economy have evolved over the last (roughly) 150 years. This course is conceived primarily as a theoretical course, helping participating PhD students to comprehend concepts both within agrarian political economy – such as primitive accumulation, agricultural production and labor relations, food regimes, food sovereignty and financialization – and from the recent "more than human" turn in agrarian studies.

To ensure that the participants become acquainted with the major theoretical approaches for understanding agrarian change, including classical political economy approaches and the recent 'more than human' turn in critical agrarian studies, acquire a detailed understanding of the drivers of agrarian change and learn to connect theories of agrarian change to other important trends/debates, the course is divided into four overarching themes. Each theme will involve reading, a lecture and a full day seminar. During the seminar students will be allotted specific texts in the reading list to present in more detail to the peer students as a way of introducing and leading the discussion.

Requirements for examination

Examination will consist of active participation in five mandatory seminars and the submission of written reflections and presentations on the reading material.

All seminars are mandatory, as is the final written assignment. In a final written text and peer-review and discussion of texts the students will get a chance to focus on some particular driver of agrarian change, geographical location, or theoretical debate and discuss it in the light of the course literature.

Additional information

Course leaders:

Klara Fischer (klara.fischer@slu.se)

Brian Kuns (brian.kuns@slu.se)

To sign up for the course send an email to Klara Fischer or Brian Kuns no later than June 17 with a 250 word description of why this course is relevant for your studies and information about the University and department you are enrolled with and the subject of your PhD studies. Before June 28 we will notify you of admission.

This course will be held online. If a majority of students are in the Uppsala area, we will investigate the possibility of hybrid, i.e. online and in-class, instruction. To make sure we have the teaching resources to provide feedback, we aim to accept approximately 10 PhD students into the course. To participate in the course, students must submit a short application that details how their research intersects with Agrarian Change.

The course is offered by the research school Society and Landscape (SL) at the Department of Urban and Rural Development, SLU.

Responsible department

Department of Urban and Rural Development