



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

SLUkurs

Syllabus

PNS0212 Uneven Geographical Development, 5.0 credits

Syllabus approved

2020-11-19

Subjects

Other Social Science/Agricultural History/Rural Development/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

Accepted as PhD student.

Objective, including learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- critically understand Smith's theory of uneven development and its relation to other theories of unequal development;
- appraise theories of the production of nature, space, and scale to the theories of uneven development;
- critically assess their own research interests in relation to theories of uneven development.

Content

This course is geared towards students of rural development studies, landscape planning/architecture, human geography, anthropology, sociology, environmental/agrarian history and other social sciences.

The purpose of the course is to undertake a close and critical reading of the foundational book entitled: *Uneven Development: Nature, Capital, and the Production of Space* by Neil Smith, in order to understand:

- the roots and importance of the theory of uneven development in Marxian political economy and in this historical development of capitalism more generally;
- the differences and connections between Smith's theory and other theories of uneven development, such as dependency theory, World Systems theory, and older Marxist variants of the "theory of combined and unequal development";
- the reasons for and value of placing a theory of the production of nature at the center of the theory of uneven development;
- the importance of a theory of the production of space to the theory of uneven development;
- the degree to which this theory of uneven development can – and cannot – assist to understand differences and similarities in trajectories of development in the Global South and the Global North;
- the degree to which theories of uneven development can – and cannot – assist to understand differences and interrelationships between urban and rural processes of development.

A central concern of the course will be examining what uneven development looks like on the ground – that is, how it is expressed and mediated in and through the geographical landscape. We will also seek to understand how the dynamics of uneven development have played out historically.

Requirements for examination

Formal student presentations and critique of others' work.

Additional information

Course leaders:

Örjan Bartholdson, SLU, orjan.bartholdson@slu.se

Don Mitchell, Uppsala University, Don.Mitchell@kultgeog.uu.se

To apply:

Please send an email to Katarina Landström, katarina.landstrom@slu.se, before 1 February 2021, providing: (1) Your full contact information; (2) Your motivation for taking this course, including its relationship to your PhD research; (3) an abstract of your PhD project.

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