

# Swedish Society, Culture and Industry in Historical Perspective (AK1213, 7.5 credits)

## Course Memo Fall 2024

### Content and learning outcomes

#### Course contents

AK1213 is aimed at international exchange students and international master's students at KTH, who wish to broaden their knowledge of Swedish society, politics, city planning, culture, and industry. The course focuses on the construction of cultures and identities, and addresses topics such as politics, economy, technology, industry, city planning, and architecture in Sweden in a long-term perspective. We use a variety of teaching formats: lectures, excursions, and seminars, all held in English. The course is scheduled in the afternoons and early evenings, with sessions normally starting at 17.15 (but see the schedule for possible exceptions, particularly with regards to the excursions).

#### Intended learning outcomes

The main purpose of the course is that the students understand and should be able to give a basic account of how changing cultures, ideologies and political ideals have shaped and re-shaped Swedish city planning, technology and industry in the post-WWII period.

After the course, the students should be able to:

- Outline and demonstrate knowledge on the main characteristics of the “Swedish model” (political system, welfare state and neutrality/non-alignment).
- Outline and demonstrate knowledge on the general development of Swedish industry and technology in the post-WWII period.
- Outline and demonstrate knowledge on the basic characteristics of Swedish city planning during the post-WWII period.
- Demonstrate analytical reading and writing, including reflecting, referencing, reasoning and deconstructing analytical questions central to the course content.

The seminar activities are designed to give students opportunities to discuss course content in smaller groups (first three points above) and practice analytical reading and writing skills (fourth point above). The individual assignments for seminars are submitted on Canvas. Students are instructed to refer to course readings and sources used, and avoid plagiarism. The teachers use text analysis software that help identify plagiarism. Course assignments should be completed without the use of AI-based software for writing assignments and final essay.

#### Learning activities

The course content is structured into three modules, each including lectures, excursions, and seminars. The lectures make up the larger part of each module, complemented with excursions that give other perspectives and ways to think about the course material. Each module includes a seminar, in which the literature, excursions and lectures are discussed by the students under teacher supervision. Students are also required to prepare a brief written assignment before each seminar.

### *Lectures*

Lectures are held on a variety of topics by teachers from the Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment at KTH and by invited guest lecturers from other universities and organizations. Some lectures are followed by the opportunity for questions and discussions with the lecturer.

### *Excursions and city walks*

The excursions and city walks consist of guided visits to city and/or suburban areas in the Stockholm region, as well as visits to museums (with free admission for participants). These visits are selected so as to further deepen the understanding of particular parts of the course. For the excursions, the course will be divided into smaller groups that will go at different times, so please pay attention to the schedule. The groups will be posted at our online course platform Canvas.

### *Seminars*

The seminars take the form of supervised discussion of the literature and of student assignments, and provide further opportunity to engage with the course literature and themes. Like the excursions, the seminars are held in smaller groups. Participants are divided into seminar groups via the course platform Canvas.

## **Detailed plan**

The module *Sweden and the Arctic* takes a critical look at Swedish history in relation to the Arctic and indigenous cultures and identities in the north in a historical perspective. It focuses on Sweden's political and historical relationship to the Arctic region and the Sami people, the indigenous population of the north. It also provides students with tools to discuss and question concepts of identity, stereotypes, cultural myths, and national narratives. The course module *Urban transformation, City planning and Sustainability* is centered around the analysis of infrastructure systems and city planning, and urban transformation, particularly from a perspective of social and environmental sustainability, and with a focus on the Stockholm region. The *Swedish History and Politics* module gives an overview of different aspects of Swedish history, including lectures about Sweden and the Cold War and the Swedish model and welfare state.

## **Course outline, see schedule online for more details**

### **Introduction:**

- *Course introduction*: presenting course modules, course activities, learning outcomes, exam and course requirements. Meet and teachers and course responsible.
- Lecture 1: *Introduction to Swedish Society* – Per Högselius, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, Room E1 (17:15-19:00)

### **Module 1: Sweden and the Arctic**

- Lecture 2: *The Sámi in Sweden* – Corinna Röver, Linköping University, 5<sup>th</sup> September (17:15-19:00)
- Lecture 3: *Arctic governance and geopolitics* – Eric Paglia, Division of History of Science, Technology, KTH, 10<sup>th</sup> September (17:15-19:00), see Canvas and online schedule for room.
- Excursion: Nordic Museum, Djurgården: 11<sup>th</sup> September, time and detailed info on Canvas
- Seminar 2: Sweden and the Arctic. 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September, (17:15-19:00), see detailed info on Canvas for seminar rooms for seminar group 1-4.

## Module 2: Urban transformation, City planning and Sustainability

- Lecture 4: *Urban transformation and local planning* – Katarina Larsen, KTH, Div. History of Science, Technology and Environment. 24 September (17:15-19:00)
- Lecture 5: *Urban sustainability? Transformations beyond eco-modernist imaginaries* – Pernilla Hagbert, Division of Urban and Regional Studies, KTH. 26<sup>th</sup> September (17:15-19:00)
- Seminar 2 and excursion 2: Urban transformation: 8<sup>th</sup> October, 17:15-19:00. Location: Färgfabriken in Stockholm (not at KTH-Campus, see more info on Canvas). Visiting address: Lövholmsbrinken 1, Stockholm. (See more info on Canvas)

## Module 3: Swedish History and Politics

- Lecture 6: *How Sweden was built on fossil fuels* – Per Högselius, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH, 31<sup>st</sup> October, (17:15-19:00)
- *Lecture 7: The History of Sweden from a KTH perspective* – Per Högselius, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH, 5<sup>th</sup> November, (17:15-19:00)
- Seminar 3: Swedish History and Politics. 19<sup>th</sup> November and 21<sup>st</sup> November, 17:15-19:00, see detailed info on Canvas and online schedule on seminar rooms for group 1-4.
- City walk: Unguided tour, complete before deadline 18<sup>th</sup> November, (See more info on Canvas).

## Preparations before course start

### Recommended prerequisites

Completed upper secondary education including documented proficiency in English.

### Specific preparations

None.

### Literature

The course literature consists of articles and book chapters that will be made available to students in pdf-format by the start of the course. For each lecture, seminar and in some cases excursion, there is a list of readings that you will need to consult before each teaching occasion and prepare by reading the relevant sources. In some instances, there is required reading while in other instances the reading is recommended. The final reading list will be available as a separate document via the course platform Canvas.

### Support for students with disabilities

Students with documented, permanent disabilities can receive compensatory support in their studies at KTH. The group that coordinates supports is called Funka. More information is available under this link:

<https://www.kth.se/en/student/stod/studier/funktionsnedsattning/funka-1.953214>

## Examination and completion

### Grading scale

A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

### Examination

- TEN1 - Examination, 3.5 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F
- ÖVN1 - Assignment, 4.0 credits, grading scale: P, F

Based on recommendation from KTH's coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

### **Grading criteria/assessment criteria**

Attendance at the three seminars is mandatory. In preparation for the seminars, students are also required to write and bring with them brief assignments based on the assigned literature. At the seminars, students have to participate actively in the discussions and answer questions with reference to the course content. Teachers and seminar leaders will give feedback and challenge the answers of the students. Students who miss a seminar will have to write a compensation assignment to make up for their absence.

The final examination at the end of the course consists of two parts: a multiple-choice test which is obligatory for passing the course, and a final course essay which is voluntary but required for a grade higher than D. The students will also have the opportunity to do a Mock-exam (on Canvas) at the end of the course, in order to become familiar with the format of the online multiple-choice exam.

The examination dates are as follows:

- 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024: Mock-exam (on Canvas, to try online format of the exam)
- 4-5<sup>th</sup> December 2024: Exam (on Canvas), submit before 5<sup>th</sup> December at 8 pm (CET)
- 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024: Final essay submitted (on Canvas) before 8 pm (CET)
- 24-25<sup>th</sup> April 2025: Reexamination (on Canvas)

The formal requirements for passing the course are thus as follows:

- One final, online, multiple choice exam (TEN1; 3.5hp)
- Compulsory participation in exam training activities (ÖVN1; 4.0hp)

This part includes:

- Attending seminars, active participation at online seminars
- Submitting written assignments
- Give feedback and comments on assignments for seminars, as instructed

### **Opportunity to complete the requirements via supplementary examination**

There will be an opportunity for retaking the exam.

### **Alternatives to missed activities or tasks**

Students who miss a seminar will have to write a compensation assignment to make up for their absence.

### **Ethical approach**

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.

## **Contacts**

The course is offered by the Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment at the School of Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE) at KTH.

## **Communication during the course**

For questions about the course, please use the course e-mail address, [swesoc@kth.se](mailto:swesoc@kth.se). Avoid writing to the teachers' personal e-mail addresses for course-related questions.

## **Course responsible**

Katarina Larsen, [swesoc@kth.se](mailto:swesoc@kth.se)

## **Teachers / Course module responsible**

Eric Paglia, [eric.paglia@abe.kth.se](mailto:eric.paglia@abe.kth.se)

Katarina Larsen, [larsen@kth.se](mailto:larsen@kth.se)

Per Högselius, [perho@kth.se](mailto:perho@kth.se)

## **Examiner**

Per Högselius, [perho@kth.se](mailto:perho@kth.se)

## **Other contacts**

Regarding administration and registration: [kursexp@abe.kth.se](mailto:kursexp@abe.kth.se)

Regarding course content: [swesoc@kth.se](mailto:swesoc@kth.se)