



**Stockholm  
University**

2024-06-27

## **Course Description**

# **International and Comparative Education**

**(15 ECTS)**

**PEA461**

**Autumn semester 2024**

**Course Leader:**

**Susanne Kreitz-Sandberg**

## **Department of Education**

Stockholm University  
Department of Education  
SE-106 91 Stockholm  
Sweden

Visiting address:  
Frescativägen 54  
[www.edu.su.se](http://www.edu.su.se)

Phone: +46 8 16 20 00



## General Introduction

This introductory course offers an overview of the international and comparative education field of scholarship. In the course the foundations of theory and methodology that make up the conceptual framework in the field are explored. The course covers key concepts in international and comparative education. It contains examples of comparative studies that range from large scale quantitative studies of educational achievement to qualitative studies examining education systems globally, nationally and regionally. The course includes skills training in writing in English for academic purposes in the field of international and comparative education.

## Contact Information

Course Leader: Susanne Kreitz-Sandberg

E-mail: [susanne.kreitz-sandberg@edu.su.se](mailto:susanne.kreitz-sandberg@edu.su.se)

Course Administration: Thórunn Jakobsdóttir

E-mail: [mastersprogramme@edu.su.se](mailto:mastersprogramme@edu.su.se)

### Lecturers:

Associate professor Leonora Dugonjic Rodwin (LDR)

[leonora.dugonjic.rodwin@edu.su](mailto:leonora.dugonjic.rodwin@edu.su)

Professor Meeri Hellstén (MH) [meeri.hellsten@edu.su.se](mailto:meeri.hellsten@edu.su.se)

Associate professor Susanne Kreitz-Sandberg (SKS) [susanne.kreitz-sandberg@edu.su.se](mailto:susanne.kreitz-sandberg@edu.su.se)

Professor Joakim Landahl (JL) [joakim.landahl@edu.su.se](mailto:joakim.landahl@edu.su.se)

Associate professor Malgorzata Malec Rawinski (MMR) [malgosia.malec-rawinski@edu.su.se](mailto:malgosia.malec-rawinski@edu.su.se)

## University Account and Athena

For information on how to activate your university student account, please visit:

<https://www.su.se/english/education/a-smooth-start/get-access-to-it-services-your-university-account-and-order-a-university-card>

Athena is a web-based learning and collaboration platform for courses at Stockholm University. You must have activated your student account and be registered for the course to have access to the Athena course page. The Athena page for this course will be made available to students registered for the course, no later than one week before the course begins. If you have difficulty accessing the Athena page for this course,



please check first that you are registered for the course. Then contact the course administrator. The link to Athena is <https://athena.su.se/>

## Course Structure and Content of Education

The course contains compulsory instruction which combines lectures, workshops, discussions and group work to achieve the learning outcomes. The course includes a compulsory presentation of a course paper and the critical examination of one other student's course paper. Students are required to attend 80% of the compulsory course sessions. Absence larger than 20% of the compulsory instruction needs to be compensated with additional course work.

For the course content and schedule, please check Time Edit:

[https://cloud.timeedit.net/su/web/stud1/s.html?i=x7ce6e4Z8n0wknyaQhxnZclQln\\_3nbZH08QcTcn\\_sl7716Qy6d650606W65490804.html](https://cloud.timeedit.net/su/web/stud1/s.html?i=x7ce6e4Z8n0wknyaQhxnZclQln_3nbZH08QcTcn_sl7716Qy6d650606W65490804.html)

## Learning Objectives

The course participant shall be able to demonstrate competencies in the theoretical, methodological understanding in the field of international and comparative education, keeping in mind the multiple analytical levels/dimensions concerned in the field. To pass the course the student should be able to:

- account for conceptual and academic knowledge gained in international and comparative education and in relation to contemporary theories and methodology applied in this field,
- account for knowledge gained about conducting systematic studies of similarities and differences between global educational systems and sub-systems,
- describe and compare the function of various political, socio-cultural and economic contexts on education and curriculum,
- analyse possible implications of globalization for international and comparative education,
- demonstrate knowledge and skills in writing in English for academic purposes in international and comparative education,
- demonstrate foundational knowledge of research methods applied in the field of international and comparative education.

## Examination and Grading

Course participants shall present an exam paper that shows their knowledge about



international and comparative education as specified in the learning objectives. Detailed instructions of the exam paper assignment will be given separately.

Each course participant is expected to present and defend an exam paper. Each student should also critically peer review a fellow student's exam paper and participate actively in the course examination sessions.

Students who fail the examination, or who do not submit the exam paper or do not submit their exam paper in time have to complete a re-examination at a later date. Such course participants will be asked to complete a new assignment with a new examination deadline.

Examination tasks which are not submitted by the deadline will not be assessed.

A student could be given permission to submit a course paper after the deadline for submission if a request with a legitimate reason has been communicated in writing to the course leader before the deadline. The course leader will respond to such requests in writing and accept them when the reasons given for the delay are reasonable.

## Attendance

Course attendance is compulsory and is a requirement of examination. In the event of unavoidable absence from compulsory sessions, students may contact the Course Leader, associate professor Susanne Kreitz-Sandberg (susanne.kreitz-sandberg@edu.su.se).

In order for a student to be examined, they must have attended at least 80% of all compulsory course sessions, such as lectures, group work, group work presentations, and seminars. Student absences of more than 20% of the course sessions must be compensated via additional course assignments. If a student has attended less than 60% of the course sessions they have to re-take the course. Students will not receive the course grade until all the required assignments have been submitted and duly assessed.

**Additional course** assignments will be given by the course leader to those students who have been absent more than 20 % of the course session. Submitted **compensation work** accounts for attendance.



## Course paper deadline

The course paper submission date is **October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. The paper is submitted in the 'Assignment' folder on Athena. Please save the document as your Surname, First Name.

There will be a compulsory course paper presentation and discussion of the papers on **October 31<sup>st</sup>**.

### Second Examination

Students who do not submit a course paper on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, who fail to submit their course paper by the due date, or receive an unsatisfactory mark in the course examination can submit an assignment during the second examination. The second examination will contain a new topic and new task.

### Second Examination Dates

The assignment task will be posted on Athena on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The submission date is **December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**. The paper is submitted in the 'Assignment' folder on Athena under "Second Examination". Please save the document as your Surname, First Name. The seminar will be on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The compulsory course paper presentation and discussion of the papers is on **December 19<sup>th</sup>**.

### Third Examination

Students who do not submit a course paper on the first or second examination, who fail to submit their course paper by the due date, or receive an unsatisfactory mark in a course examination can submit an assignment during the third examination. The third examination will contain a new topic and new task.

### Third Examination Dates

Assignment task will be posted on Athena on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The submission date is **March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. The paper is submitted in the 'Assignment' folder on Athena under "Third Examination". Please save the document as your Surname, First Name.

The compulsory course paper presentation and discussion of the papers is on April, 1<sup>st</sup>.



## Plagiarism

It is permissible to cite other sources, but both direct quotes and indirect references to a text must always be provided with correct and complete referencing to the original source. Copying or writing a shorter or longer paragraph and stating yourself as the author of the text is prohibited. This is considered plagiarism. You may also not copy your own texts that have been used in other examinations, as this is considered self-plagiarism.

An example of plagiarism is copying text verbatim or almost verbatim (this includes parts of a text and/or individual sentences) and not indicating where the text originates from. Plagiarism is also when you use another person's or AI-generated text and make it appear that it is your own. For example, text found in the course literature and /or texts that you have found online, or another student's course paper. Plagiarism is regarded as a crime, not only against the established research ethics code, but also against upholding general regard towards one's own and others' texts. Plagiarism is unauthorized cheating and is always subject to disciplinary reporting, which can lead to suspension. At Stockholm University, texts are checked against a database.

## Cheating

As a student at Stockholm University, you are responsible for your own education. Part of your responsibility includes knowing the rules that exist for study, examination and being on the university premises, and utilizing resources. According to the rules that apply to the university, disciplinary measures may be taken against students for:

- using unauthorized means, or otherwise attempt to, mislead an exam or when student performance is assessed otherwise;
- interfering with or obstruction teaching, tests or other activities within the framework of education.

Disciplinary matters are dealt with by the Stockholm University Disciplinary Board. The penalty may be a warning or suspension for a period of 1-6 months. Information on Stockholm University rules for examination and disciplinary cases can be found on Stockholm University's website [www.su.se/regulations](http://www.su.se/regulations). Teachers are required to report a suspected suspicion of cheating to the director of studies.

## Grading Criteria

Grading Scale	
<b>A.</b>	The exam paper demonstrates that all the learning outcomes of the course have been fulfilled in an excellent way. The student shows an excellent ability to describe, analyse and discuss the content of the course in an independent and reflective way. The text contains several references to the course literature and to other relevant texts that are well chosen to fit the context. The text is well structured, without any formal mistakes and with a language that signifies clarity and an effort to elaborate the text. The text should not be shorter or longer than the range prescribed in the course assignment. An exam paper that is shorter or longer than the prescribed range will be affected in the grading.
<b>B.</b>	The exam paper demonstrates that all the learning outcomes of the course have been fulfilled in a very good way. The student shows a very good ability to describe, analyse and discuss the content of the course in an independent and reflective way. The text contains several references to the course literature and to other relevant texts that are well chosen to fit the context. The text is well structured, without formal mistakes and with a language use that signifies clarity and an effort to elaborate the text. An exam paper that is shorter or longer than the prescribed range will be affected in the grading.
<b>C.</b>	The exam paper demonstrates that all the learning outcomes of the course have been fulfilled in a good way. The student shows good ability to describe, analyse and discuss the content of the course without major shortcomings. The text refers in a relevant way to the course literature and to other appropriate texts. The text is well structured, without any major formal mistakes and with a good language use. An exam paper that is shorter or longer than the prescribed range will be affected in the grading.
<b>D.</b>	The exam paper demonstrates that all the learning outcomes of the course have been fulfilled in a satisfactory way. The student shows that he/she has achieved knowledge and understanding of the course content and ability to discuss this in an independent way. The text refers to the course literature. The text is structured in a satisfactory way, without any major formal mistakes and in an acceptable language. An exam paper that is shorter or longer than the prescribed range will be affected in the grading.
<b>E.</b>	The exam paper demonstrates that the learning outcomes of the course have been fulfilled in a sufficient way. The student shows that he/she has achieved an acceptable knowledge and

	understanding of the course content, but with a limited ability to discuss this in an independent way. The text connects to the course literature. The text is structured in an acceptable way, without any serious formal mistakes and in an acceptable language. An exam paper that is shorter or longer than the prescribed range will be affected in the grading.
<b>Fx.</b>	The exam paper demonstrates that the required learning outcomes have not been fulfilled. Possible shortcomings could be: that the course literature is not covered in a sufficient way, analyses and discussions in the text are not convincing, the text is too close to the course literature, there is no link between own observations and the course literature / the content of the course, the text is difficult to understand due to inadequate language use, the disposition of the text makes it difficult to follow the text, references are incorrect or missing and/or the paper is much shorter or much longer than the prescribed length. A revision of the paper is needed.
<b>F.</b>	The exam paper demonstrates that the required learning outcomes have not been fulfilled. Possible shortcomings could be those mentioned under F(x), but are so serious that they cannot be amended by a revision of the text. The course participant has to do a new course assignment that will be given by the course leader.

## Course Evaluation

The course is evaluated through an online survey which will be made available at the end of the course.

## Course Literature

The current course literature is made available on the course page <https://www.su.se/english/search-courses-and-programmes/pea461-1.526027> no later than two months before the course begins.

A complete list of course literature is published on Athena.

## Support during your studies

At Stockholm University, it is possible to receive extra support in addition to regular teaching.





### Academic Writing Service

The Academic Writing Service provides English-language support for writing and study skills. They give talks and seminars and offer individual guidance. Their services are available free of charge to all students at Stockholm University. For more information visit: <https://www.su.se/english/education/student-support/academic-writing-service>

### Studying with a disability

If you have a documented disability, e.g. dyslexia, you have the opportunity to receive special pedagogical support. Examples of support initiatives may be note-taking, audio books, extended exam time or sign language interpretation. You must apply for special pedagogical support from Student Support Office at Stockholm University

<https://www.su.se/english/education/student-support/studying-with-a-disability>

Once the application has been received, a coordinator will contact you to arrange a personal meeting. After speaking to the coordinator, you will receive a certificate describing types of support to be offered to you.

It is the responsibility of the student to contact the student counselors at the Department of Education **before a course begins** in order to arrange for support. Their email address is [studievagledare@edu.su.se](mailto:studievagledare@edu.su.se). Please note that in case of possible re-examinations, you need to contact the study guide again. The student counselors will then contact the course leaders with regards to the type of support the student will need.