

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Social Work: Poverty and Social Welfare

Socialt arbete: Fattigdom och välfärd

7.5 Higher Education

Credits

7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	SU7231
Valid from:	Autumn 2013
Date of approval:	2012-09-26
Department	Department of Social Work
Main field:	Social Work
Specialisation:	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

Approved by the Board of the Department of Social Work, Stockholm University.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Social Work or other Bachelor's degree, or the equivalent. Swedish B/Swedish as a second language and English A, or the equivalent.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
0001	Social Work: Poverty and Social Welfare	7.5

Course content

- Different empirical and theoretical perspectives on poverty and social security allowances
- How poverty and economic marginalisation co-vary with different kinds of socio-political and distribution systems
- Models for working with social security allowances. The administrative and political framework of economic support
- Patterns of duration of economic support and distinctive features with regard to gender, ethnicity and need.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course students shall be able to:

- give an account of different theoretical and empirical perspectives on poverty
- analyse the significance of social policy and distribution policy for the materialization of poverty and the need for social security allowances
- give an account of how access to and generosity of economic support is affected by different institutional frameworks
- analyse different forms of interventions from a professional viewpoint and in a social policy context
- apply knowledge of allowance receiver patterns over time to analyse the varying conditions of different groups.

Education

Instruction is in the form of lectures and seminars.

Forms of examination

Examination is by individual oral and/or written assignments.

Grades are related to the specified learning outcomes and set according to the following seven-grade scale:

A Excellent outstanding performance with only minor errors
B Very good above average standard but with some errors
C Good generally sound work but with a number of notable errors
D Satisfactory fair but with significant shortcomings
E Sufficient performance meets the minimum criteria
F Fails some more work required before the credit can be awarded
F Fails considerable further work required

Information on grading criteria will be handed out at the start of the course.

To pass the course students must have obtained at least grade E on written assignments and actively participated in any other mandatory parts of the course.

For information on the rules for examination and retakes as approved by the Board of the Department of Social Work see separate information sheet.

Students have the right to request a retake with another examiner if failed twice on a module. Such requests must be made in writing to the director of studies no later than one year after the end of the course.

Required reading

Bergmark, Å & O. Bäckman. (2007) Socialbidragstagandets dynamik – varaktighet och utträden från socialbidragstagande under 2000-talet. Socialvetenskaplig tidskrift. 14, 134-152 (19 s.)

Bergmark, Å., Lundström, T., Minas, R. & Wiklund, S. (2008) Socialtjänsten i blickfånget. Stockholm, Natur & Kultur. (valda delar, 132 s.)

Gunnarsson, E. (2000). Kvinnors fattigdom-könsperspektivet i forskningen om socialbidrag. Socialvetenskaplig tidskrift, 7, 57-71 (15 s.)

Gustafsson, B., Zaidi, A. & Franzén, E. (2006). Finansiell fattigdom. I Social rapport, 94-130. Stockholm, Socialstyrelsen. (37 s.)

Hjertner Thorén, K. (2005). Kommunal aktiveringspolitik. En fallstudie av det praktiska arbetet med arbetslösa socialbidragstagare. IFAU-rapport 2005:11. Uppsala. IFAU (24 s.)

Nelson, K. (2004). Mechanisms of poverty alleviation: anti-poverty effects of non-means-tested and meanstested benefits in five welfare states. Journal of European Social Policy, 14, 371-390 (20 s.).

Puide, A. (2000). Socialbidrag i forskning och praktik. Stockholm, Gothia. (315 s.)

Rauhut, D. (2006). Den besvärliga fattigdomen. Stockholm, Almqvist & Wiksell (129 s.)

Riitakallio, V-M. & Fritzell, J. (2004). Societal Shifts and Changed Patterns of Poverty. Luxembourg Income Study Working Paper Series, No 393. (38 pages).

Stranz, H. (2007). Utrymme för variation: om prövning av socialbidrag. Akademisk avhandling. Stockholms universitet – Institutionen för socialt arbete. (260 s.)