Syllabus for course at advanced level

Need- and risk assessments: methods and models in social work with children, youth and families. 7.5 Higher Education Credits
Behovs- och riskbedömningar: metoder och modeller i socialt arbete med barn, unga och familjer 7.5 ECTS credits

Course code: SU7244
Valid from: Spring 2015
Date of approval: 2014-10-22
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 Stockholm University Department of Social Work.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements
Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work, other Bachelor’s degree or the equivalent. Swedish B/Swedish as a second language and English A or the equivalent.

Course structure

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Course content
- Methods and models for needs and risk assessments in social work with children, youth and their families, discussed from a social scientific perspective in relation to social work as profession
- Models of needs and risk assessment used in concrete exercises based on case histories
- Current research on ethical and juridical standpoints concerning risk assessment in social work with children and youth from a critical perspective.

Learning outcomes
Upon successful completion of the course participants shall be able to
- identify risk and protective factors for children’s health and development related to various forms of vulnerability
- understand and analyse the knowledge base for needs and risk assessments and also to argue from demands on level of risk related to assessments and investigations within the Social Services Act (SoL), the Care of Young Persons Act (LVU) and the Children and Parents Code (FB).
- based on current research and practical exercises, understand, in general terms describe and critically reflect on how standardised instruments are constructed, their ethical and legal grounds and areas of application, and how they differ from clinical/experience-based models
- describe and critically reflect on how to handle the balancing between the client’s/the family’s description of problems, needs and desires and the social services’ responsibility for prevention and protection with regard to children’s health and development.

Education

This is a translation of the Swedish original
Instruction is in the form of lectures and seminars with active student participation. Failure to attend any seminar must be compensated for according to teacher instructions.

**Forms of examination**
Grades are related to the specified learning outcomes and set according to the following scale:
- A: Excellent; outstanding performance
- 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
- Fx: Fail; some more work required before the credit can be awarded
- F: Fail; completely unacceptable performance

Information on grading criteria and forms of examination will be handed out at the start of the course. To pass students must have obtained at least grade E on written assignments and satisfied other demands of the course.

For information on examination and make up examination regulations as approved by the Board of the Department of Social Work, see separate information sheet.

Participants have the right to request re-examination with another examiner if failed twice. Such requests must be made in writing to the director of studies no later than one year after the course is concluded.

Plagiarism and other attempts to mislead (e.g. self-plagiarism) at examinations or other assessments of study achievement will result in reporting for suspected cheating, which can lead to disciplinary measures.

Examination task with graded assessment:
- Home examination / individual report.

Further demands of the course:
- Participation in seminars in accordance with teacher instructions, absence from any seminar to be compensated for with a written assignment.

The final grade given for the course is based on the following:
- The grade obtained for the written report together with attendance at lectures and active participation in seminars.

Consequences of getting grade Fx or F:
- See the Department’s guidelines concerning examinations and make up examinations.

**Required reading**


Stranz, H. & Wiklund, S. (2013) SDQ - En processutvärdering av införandet av ett bedömningsinstrument i stadsdelsförvaltningarna Södermalm och Rinkeby-Kista. Stockholms universitet


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