

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Individual Project for Master's Degree in Social Work**  
**Självständigt arbete för masterexamen i socialt arbete**

**30.0 Higher Education  
Credits**  
**30.0 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	SU8241
<b>Valid from:</b>	Spring 2015
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2014-12-03
<b>Department</b>	Department of Social Work
<b>Main field:</b>	Social Work
<b>Specialisation:</b>	A1E - Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)

## Decision

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

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor's Degree of at least 180 credits including 90 credits in social work. For admission to the course the student must have been accepted as a candidate.

## Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
0001	Individual Project for Master's Degree in Social Work	30

## Course content

-Seminars on essay writing and design

Here important aspects of writing a scientific paper will be illuminated, including such practical tasks as literature search, formulation of researchable questions, choice of method and theory, analysis of material and presentation of results. Example papers will be discussed. Participants will have the opportunity to present and discuss a preliminary research plan for their paper, including a survey of relevant research in the specific area chosen.

-Seminars on research methodology

The intention here is support for the work through presentation of different research methods and discussion of different methodological and design possibilities for the individual essay projects.

-Tutoring

Individual tutoring is given in direct connection to the work on the project.

-Examination seminars

Each finished paper shall be ventilated at a seminar with a formal opponent when the author is required to present a defence.

## Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course the student shall be able to plan, design and carry out a research project of lesser scale with the following targets:

- to create a researchable problem formulation
- to carry out a research inventory of a chosen problem area
- to choose a relevant research design and apply it in a scientific essay project
- to demonstrate ability for independent critical thinking and knowledgeable reflection
- to comply with the formal demands required of a scientific paper in social work.

## Education

Instruction is in the form of seminars. Attendance is mandatory. Teaching is in English.

## 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 Fails 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 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:

Independent individual composition of a paper.

Further demands of the course:

- Participation in seminars in accordance with teacher instructions.

- Project work:

- 1) presentation of literature search

- 2) presentation of research plan (PM)

- Defence of own paper at a seminar

- Approved opposition of another student's paper.

The grade given for the course is the grade given the paper.

Consequences of getting grade Fx or F:

The degree project paper may be presented on a maximum of five examination occasions. Submission to the examiner for assessment is counted as an examination occasion.

A degree paper can receive the grade Fx more than once, i.e. Fx can also be given to a complementary task, although no more than twice. After this the grade becomes F.

A paper graded F may after revision be presented again at a new examination seminar. For a revised paper that has previously been failed (Fx, F) no higher grade than E can be obtained.

For further information see the Department's guidelines concerning examinations and make up examinations.

## Required reading

Becker, H. (1986) Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish your Thesis, Book or Article. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (180s).

Seale, C. (ed.) (2004) Social Research Methods – A Reader. London: Routledge.

American Psychological Association (2014) Basics of APA Style tutorial. Washington DC: APA (online resource at: <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx>)

Ytterligare litteratur i samband med uppsattsseminariet (ca 200 sid).

Övrig litteratur i samband med uppsatsarbetet bestäms i samråd med handledaren.