

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Perspectives on social work and social policy in the Swedish welfare state

22.5 Higher Education Credits

Perspektiv på socialt arbete och socialpolitik i den svenska välfärdsstaten

22.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	SU8350
Valid from:	Autumn 2022
Date of approval:	2022-01-27
Department	Department of Social Work
Main field:	Social Work
Specialisation:	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

Established by the board of the department of Social work at Stockholm university.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor's degree and Swedish upper secondary school course English 6 or equivalent.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
0002	Module 2	12
0001	Module 1	7.5
0003	Module 3	3

Course content

The course is taught together with students participating in SUE130 (bachelor level). The course is an overview of the Swedish welfare state and the role and the organization of social work in Sweden including critical and comparative perspectives on the Swedish welfare state model. The course is divided into three modules: Module 1 introduces the Swedish welfare state and its historical development, as well as the structure, the organization and current challenges of the Swedish welfare state. Module 2 focuses on the organization and practice of social work within a selection of central areas within Swedish social work. This module also contains different theoretical perspectives on social work practice and research within the Swedish welfare state context. Module 3 offers students the opportunity to develop and deepen their knowledge about an individually selected Swedish welfare state area or a social problem relevant to Swedish social work.

Module 1: The Swedish welfare state

- The organization and structure of the Swedish welfare state and the role and function of social work in the Swedish welfare state context
- The historical development of the Swedish welfare state
- Different welfare state theories and social policy models relevant for the understanding of the development, organization and structure of the welfare state
- Current situation of the Swedish welfare state regarding factors such as socio-economic living conditions, poverty, exclusion / segregation
- Current challenges for the Swedish welfare state and social work in Sweden

Module 2: Social work in the Swedish welfare state

- Social work in Sweden with a focus on its development, structure and organization
- Central areas in Swedish social work, including child protection, support and services for older people and people with disabilities, social work within the area of substance abuse, mental unhealth and disabilities, social work with poverty and segregated areas, and social work with domestic violence.
- Different theoretical perspectives on how social work is organized, regulated and practiced in the central areas mentioned above

Module 3: An in-depth literature study course (reading course)

- An in-depth literature study of an individually selected area or issue that is relevant to the Swedish welfare state or social work in Sweden, examined through an individually written examination paper.
- Orientation in scientific texts with relevance for the Swedish welfare state and social work in Sweden, regarding research about and practice within the Swedish welfare state and its various social work areas.

Learning outcomes

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

Module 1: The Swedish Model

- Describe the organization and structure of the Swedish welfare state and the role and function of social work in the Swedish welfare state context
- Describe the historical development of the Swedish welfare state
- Reflect upon different welfare state theories and social policy models relevant for the understanding of the welfare state development, organization and structures
- Analyze the current situation in the Swedish welfare state regarding factors such as socio-economic living conditions, poverty, exclusion / segregation
- Reflect upon current challenges for the Swedish welfare state and social work in Sweden

Module 2: Social work in the Swedish welfare state

- Discuss and analyze social work in Sweden with a focus on its development, structure and organization
- Describe central areas in Swedish social work, including child protection, support and services for older people and people with disabilities, social work within the area of substance abuse, mental unhealth and disabilities, social work in segregated areas and poverty, and social work with domestic violence.
- Compare different theoretical perspectives on how social work is organized, regulated and practiced in the central areas mentioned above

Module 3: An in-depth literature study course (reading course)

- Critically reflect upon an individually selected area or issue that is relevant to the Swedish welfare state or social work in Sweden through an in-depth literature study, examined through an individually written examination paper.
- With regards to the selected area or issue, critically compare Swedish welfare institutions with similar institutions in at least one other country

-Show a basic understand of the orientation in scientific texts and academic writing with relevance for research about and practice within the Swedish welfare state and its various social work areas.

Education

Instruction is given through lectures, seminars and study visits. Participation in, and presentations of, study visits, as well as completion of seminar assignments are mandatory elements in the course. A missed seminar or study visit can be compensated through written assignments.

Instruction is given in English.

More detailed information can be found in the course description. The course description will be available on the course platform (Athena) a month before the course introduction.

Forms of examination

a.Examination

Module 1 is examined through approved seminar assignments, approved written assignments and an individual written examination.

Module 2 is examined through completed seminar assignments, completed written assignments that focus on central areas of social work practice and an individual written examination.

Module 3 is examined through an individual written paper.

The principles for weighting grades are presented in the grading criteria.

Examination language is English.

If the student has a written certificate from Stockholm university attesting to the need for special support the grading teacher can offer an individually adapted assignment or let the student perform the assignment in an alternative way.

b.Grades

Grading is set using a scale of seven goal-related grades:

A= Excellent

B=Very good

C=Good

D=Satisfactory

E=Sufficient

Fx=Fail, some more work is needed

F=Fail, much more work is needed

c.Criteria for grading

Written criteria for grading will be presented at the course introduction

d.Final grades

In order to receive a final grade on the course the student needs to have achieved at least a grade E on all three course parts, to have fulfilled all course requirements as well as have approved course attendance.

If special reasons apply, a grading teacher can, after consultation with the course coordinator, allow the student to not participate in certain mandatory teaching or the completion of some of the mandatory course requirements. In this case the student will be given compensatory assignments.

Individual written assignments that are handed in after a set deadline will be graded no higher than C.

The final course grade will be determined using a weighted average of the grades received on the three course parts. The grades A-E will be transformed into the corresponding numbers 5-1 and added together to a course average where every course part is given a weight corresponding to its course credits.

e.Failed exams

Regarding rules for examination and re-examination, decided by the department board, see the department webpage.

Students who have failed an exam twice with the same grading teacher have the right to have another grading teacher appointed for their next re-exam, if there are no special reasons against it. The request to swap grading teacher should be directed to the director of advanced level studies.

A student who has received a pass (grade A-E) cannot re-take an exam for a higher grade.

f.Supplementary assignments

In course modules 1 and 2 it is not possible to supplement a Fx grade. The student is instead directed to the next examination date. In course part 3 it is possible to supplement an Fx grade on the individual paper up to grade C, maximum.

h. Deception and cheating

Plagiarism and other efforts to deceive (e.g. self-plagiarism), during examination or other forms of assessment will lead to a report of suspected cheating, which may lead to disciplinary action.

Limitations

This course cannot be included in a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social work or a Master degree in Social work. The course cannot be included in an exam together with another course with similar contents.

Required reading

The list of course literature will be published at the department home page two months before the course introduction.