



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Social Work

Syllabus

An introduction to social work

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| Course Code: | SMG1T1 |
| Course Title: | An introduction to social work <i>Introduktion till socialt arbete</i> |
| Credits: | 7.5 |
| Degree Level: | Undergraduate level |
| Progressive Specialisation: | First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements (G1N) |

Major Field of Study:
SAA (Social Work)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2023-02-24, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2023 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

General admission requirements plus either

-field-specific eligibility A5 (upper secondary school level Mathematics 2a or 2b or 2c, Civics 1b or 1a1 + 1a2), or

-field-specific eligibility 5 (upper secondary school level Mathematics B, Civics A).

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- describe social work, including social care, in a historical perspective,
- give an account of different areas and functions of social work in a historical and present perspective,
- give an account of the traditions and organisation of social work in a national and international perspective,
- give an account of central theoretical and everyday concepts in social work, including

social care, for instance, social problems such as addiction, criminality and violence in close relationships and support and care of the functionally challenged elderly,

- demonstrate basic knowledge of ethical principles relevant to professional practice,
- demonstrate basic knowledge of the theory of science and the research process,
- demonstrate basic knowledge of quantitative and qualitative method,
- use and refer to sources in accordance with standard academic principles.

Content

Instruction is in the form of lectures, groupwork and field studies with seminars.

The course introduces social work as subject, science and professional field. The emergence, meaning and construction of social work are treated along with its multidisciplinary knowledge base. Special emphasis is placed on the importance of a critical approach, the ethical dimensions of social work and the foundational principles of legislation and management pertaining to social work. Central theoretical and everyday concepts, and professional roles in social work, including social care, are treated as well as its fields of knowledge and professional practice.

The practical components of groupwork and field studies introduce students to social work in practice with an emphasis on the range of the field and future professional roles. Students are expected to combine and apply theoretical knowledge of scientific procedures such as the research process and methods with the practical components of the course and forms of presentation.

Groupwork, field studies and presentation of results at seminars are mandatory components, aiming to give students the opportunity to develop knowledge of the professional field and skills in integrating and applying basic academic and critical approaches.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on seminar participation, oral and written group exams, and on a written exam.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Fail (U), Pass (G), or Distinction (VG) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

Students who enrolled before 1 July 2007 will complete their studies in accordance with the requirements of the earlier admission.

Upon completion students may request degree and course certificates to be issued under the current ordinance if they meet its requirements.

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor's and Master's levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

The course is mandatory for social work programme students.