



Faculty of Social and Life Sciences
Social Work

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Social and Life Sciences on 28 March 2011, and is valid from the Spring semester of 2014 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: SMGC01

Social structure, condition of welfare and social policy, 15.0 ECTS Credits

(Samhällsstruktur, välfärdsvillkor och social politik, 15.0 Swedish credit points)

Degree Level: Bachelor

Progressive Specialisation: G1N (First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements)

Language of Instruction

Swedish

Prerequisites

Admission to the Social Work programme (SGGEN).

Major Field of Study

SAA (Social Work)

Learning Outcomes

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

- describe the structure, organisation, duties and financing of the welfare state,
- give an account of areas such as power, democracy, civic rights, efficiency, public administration, liberty, equality, equal opportunities, justice and human rights,
- give an account of municipal organisation, duties and financing and discuss ongoing changes in relation to the state, market and civil society,
- give an account of the relation between welfare politics and its conditions for different groups and to the national economy,
- describe the welfare state's development trends and differences between different sociopolitical systems,
- give an account of how material and social resources are allocated and how inequality is created and maintained in the present and the past,
- give an account of the importance of gender, class, ethnicity, sexuality, age, and functional capability to social structures and welfare.

Content and Form of Instruction

Instruction is in the form of lectures, groupwork and mandatory seminars.

The course deals with the ways in which social structures create and maintain different and unequal conditions for people. welfare politics in various areas (e.g. labour market, social security, social services and health care) and how welfare politics aims to reduce differences. The course also covers the structure, organisation, duties and financing of the welfare state with a special focus on the municipal level. Students carry out a group assignment based on information searches, reported in writing and presented orally in a seminar.

Fellow-students have the opportunity to critically review the written report.

The course also deals with the socioeconomic perspective of the role of sociopolitics and the consequences of the distribution of welfare for different groups of the population. The relations between the individual, the family, the market and the state are considered in terms of the historical process of change and different sociopolitical systems. Likely development tendencies as a result of global and demographic processes are discussed.

The function of the legal system in society and human rights and conventions are introduced. The course deals with the ways in which life conditions are affected by gender, class, ethnicity, sexuality, age and functional capability. Throughout the course, content is related to basic sociological, economic and political science concepts and theories.

Students conduct a database search for an academic article in English relevant to human life conditions, report on the database used, key words used and critically review the article. The article is summarised in writing and is required to include students' reflections on their own situation in relation to the social categorisations and hierarchical positions.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on an individual exam, an individual take-home exam and on mandatory seminar participation.

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 assessment is based on student views and experiences as reported in written course evaluations and/or group discussions. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of the 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.