



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Social Work

## Syllabus

### Social structure, condition of welfare and social policy

<b>Course Code:</b>	SMGC01
<b>Course Title:</b>	Social structure, condition of welfare and social policy <i>Samhällsstruktur, välfärdsvillkor och socialpolitik</i>
<b>Credits:</b>	15
<b>Degree Level:</b>	Undergraduate level
<b>Progressive Specialisation:</b>	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 2020-09-07, and is valid from the Spring semester 2021 at Karlstad University.

#### Prerequisites

General admission requirements plus either field-specific eligibility A5 (Mathematics 2a or 2b or 2c, Civics 1b or 1a1 + 1a2) or field-specific eligibility 5 (Mathematics B, Civics A), or equivalent

#### Learning Outcomes

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

1. describe the structure, organisation, duties, and financing of the welfare state,
2. give an account of areas such as power, democracy, civic rights, efficiency, public administration, liberty, equality, gender equality, justice, and human rights,
3. give an account of municipal organisation, duties, and financing,

4. discuss changes in municipal operations in relation to the state, market and civil society,
5. give an account of the relation between welfare politics and national economy, and the conditions of welfare policies for different groups of citizens,
- 6 describe the development trends for the welfare state and differences between different sociopolitical systems,
7. give an account of how material and social resources are allocated and how inequality has been created and maintained historically and in the present, and
8. give an account of the importance of gender, class, ethnicity, sexuality, age, and functional capability to social structures and welfare.

### **Content**

The course covers and deals with the ways in which social structures create and maintain different and unequal living conditions for people, including welfare policies in various areas (e.g. labour market, social security, social services, and health care) and how welfare politics aims to reduce such differences. The course also covers the structure, organisation, duties and financing of the welfare state with a special focus on organisation at the municipal level.

The course also highlights the significance of social policy in a socioeconomic perspective 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 a comparison is made of those relations in different sociopolitical systems. Likely development tendencies as a result of global and demographic processes are discussed.

The social function of the legal system is introduced, as well as human rights and conventions. 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.

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

### **Reading List**

See separate document.

### **Examination**

Learning outcomes 1-6 and 8 are assessed based on written exams.

Learning outcomes 6-8 are assessed based on an individual written take-home exam.

Learning outcomes 7-8 are also assessed based on active participation in seminars.

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**

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

The course SMGC01 cannot be included in the same degree programme as the course SMGAS1.

The course is mandatory for students in the Bachelor of Science in Social Work programme.