



Faculty of Arts and Social Science
Political Science

Syllabus

Social Planning as a Democratic Process

Course Code:	SVGB96
Course Title:	Social Planning as a Democratic Process <i>Social Planning as a Democratic Process</i>
Credits:	7.5
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G1F)

Major Field of Study:
SKA (Political Science)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Science 2015-03-12, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2015 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

At least 37.5 ECTS cr from terms 1 and 2 of the Spatial and Social Planning programme (SGSAM, or equivalent)

Learning Outcomes

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

1. give an account of social planning as a part of democratic policy making,
2. give an account of how structural, actor based and ethical factors affect the role of the social planner,
3. problematise the role of the social planner as a bureaucrat in relation to theories on policy making,
4. apply different policy decision theories on the social planner's decision making,
5. assess the process of social planning in relation to theoretical democracy models,
6. give an account of new democratic forms of local, transregional and international social planning processes,
7. give an account of the connections between the social planner's decision and implementation processes in different empirical contexts, and
8. problematise the social planner's situation in relation to different governance perspectives.

Content

Social planning is treated as part of a democratic policy process. The social planner's role and ability to fulfill pronounced societal development needs are discussed. In the light of theories on policy-making, such as pluralism and network theories, the way societal needs are formulated into problems for public policies and social planning is clarified.

Relevant theories are introduced with the aim of increasing insight into the different expectations on the social planner as a decision maker. Factors considered to affect the social planner's and other actors' possibilities to achieve changes in the policy process of promoting a more sustainable development are analysed.

Special focus is on different forms of democratic participation in and influence on social planning processes. The interplay between politicians, planners, citizens and stakeholders is analysed on the basis of empirical examples. Also analysed are alternative democracy theories dealing with the role of the social planner in ensuring essential democratic values.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment of learning outcomes are based on a take-home exam, and individual hand-in assignments presented and discussed at mandatory seminars.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) 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's and Master's levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.