



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

SOCN17, Sociology: Social Policy and Welfare Management, 15 credits

Sociologi: Socialpolitisk styrning och management, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Sociology on 2011-12-08 and was last revised on 2018-03-06. The revised syllabus applies from 2018-09-03, autumn semester 2018.

General Information

The course is a single subject second-cycle course in sociology and a compulsory component of the Master of Science programme in Welfare Policies and Management specialising in Sociology.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Sociology

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

To pass on the course, the students shall

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate specialised knowledge of key economic, cultural, political and sociological approaches to theories and concepts with regard to social policy and welfare management
- demonstrate specialised understanding of scientific, political and operational approaches underlying interventions in global health and social security arenas

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to identify and critically reflect on social policy and welfare management as a form of societal analysis
- demonstrate the ability to find, understand and critically review theories linked to social policy and welfare management from a sociological perspective
- demonstrate the ability to formulate complex research questions on social policy issues
- demonstrate the ability to make informative oral and written presentations about social policy
- demonstrate the ability to provide scientific communication and summarise ongoing research on social policy and welfare management

Judgement and approach

- - demonstrate the ability to reflect on ethical and epistemological issues in relation to theories, perspectives and studies
- - demonstrate insight concerning the limitations and potential of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.

Course content

The course analyses many different aspects of social policy, e.g. education and staff development, employment, risk management, allowance systems, family support and healthcare, based on the following questions:

1. What is the responsibility of the state (nation states and other forms of government) for funding and providing social welfare? The question is addressed from both a historical and international comparative perspective.
2. Who is the beneficiary of government-funded social welfare and which criteria and conditions are used to determine who is eligible? How can needs be measured efficiently?
3. How can welfare management be executed effectively and efficiently?
4. Which new elements in social policy and which recent reforms have had an important (both negative and positive) impact on the implementation and outcomes of welfare programmes?
5. What can evaluations of social policy programmes say about the costs and benefits of the implementation of different types of policies and strategies?
6. How have the roles of government, NGOs and profit-making organisations changed with regard to the provision of welfare services? How has public opinion changed, in particular with regard to recent changes in the public sector (e.g. requirements of measurability, procurement of private companies etc)?

Course design

The teaching consists of a combination of lectures and seminars. At the seminars, the students carry out oral and written presentations of the literature and the specific subjects. The course is completed with seminars where the students' papers are discussed.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, participation in seminars is compulsory. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

Assessment

The assessment is based on an individual take-home exam.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination, a retake and a catch-up exam. Two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of a major change or discontinuation of the course. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail. The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student have shown unacceptable results.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have 150 credits, including a Bachelor's degree project in a social sciences subject or the equivalent.

Oral and written proficiency in English equivalent to English 6/B from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. International qualifications will be assessed in accordance with national guidelines.

Subcourses in SOCN17, Sociology: Social Policy and Welfare Management

Applies from V12

1101 Social Policy and Welfare Management, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A