



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

## **SOAN36, Social Policy in Europe, 15 credits**

*Social Policy in Europe, 15 högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

---

### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by the board of the School of Social Work on 2011-10-12 and was last revised on 2017-03-15. The revised syllabus applies from 2017-03-15, autumn semester 2017.

### **General Information**

The course is offered as a freestanding course in the main field of Social Work and can be included in a degree of Master of Science (120 credits) with a major in Social Work.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

Social Work

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

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

### **Learning outcomes**

For a Pass on the course, students shall

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- demonstrate knowledge and deeper understanding of theories relevant to social work and social policy
- identify and demonstrate a deeper understanding of the varying processes within social policy development

**Competence and skills**

- critically reflect on the use of theories in social policy and social work setting and apply these theories in a European context
- actively apply professional skills (academic, policy making and social work) in analysing and acting on theories of social work and social policy

**Judgement and approach**

- make assessments of the professional role when acting in contentious arenas
- demonstrate insight of various actors within the field and demonstrate an awareness of the ethical implications of academic analyses, policy implementation and social work intervention.

**Course content**

The aim of the course is to provide students with analytical tools that enhance their

abilities in exploring and explaining policy making within social policy and its ties to practices of social work and social services. Both bottom up and top down perspectives are thoroughly discussed. In the course, the processes within social policy in social life are central. In particular, the course deals with theoretical discussions of varying modes in which social policy deals with social change at different levels.

The course consists of two major parts: one theoretical and one oriented at ongoing changes in current welfare states.

The first part of the course deals with theoretical discussions on social policy and social inclusion/exclusion (regimes, models, typologies) and notions such as recognition/redistribution/representation.

We examine how established models of social policy can be contrasted to new forms of social marginalisation at different levels (subnational, national, regional, European). Parallel to the transformation of the social structure, the nation state as the main provider (or regulative framework) for social policies is being rescaled at various levels, and at the same time non-public actors increasingly carry out the provision of welfare. Here, the emphasis is on changes in the governance of the provision of social policy, above all the interaction of the national and the European level.

The second part of the course will discuss ongoing social policy reforms, in Sweden and in a European perspective. Social policy in general and social work in particular is commonly defined by its handling of social consequences from the capitalist society's ways of working. The term social problem is often used to describe a state requiring some form of action. How the consequences are experienced, defined, and assessed differs by who is offered to provide an opinion as well as by who has the ability of controlling a situation. In this context, the residualizing of social problems to individuals' or groups' problems is supported by one end of an ideological policy direction, while social rights as collective responsibilities are on the other. An ambition is therefore to let people, active in various levels of organization in the field, provide challenging focuses to the questions of social welfare; consumers, welfare and case managers, welfare entrepreneurs, policymakers, and voters. Another ambition is to support students in comparative analyses of social policy development, in Sweden and elsewhere.

## **Course design**

The course applies a number of student-centred teaching methods that increase the student's participation in the creative learning process. The teaching consists of

a combination of lectures, workshops and seminars. The lectures are interdisciplinary in character and the students are encouraged to independently search for, analyse and present literature.

Workshops and seminars are compulsory. Absence from an occasional compulsory component can be compensated for.

## **Assessment**

The assessment is based on

- oral presentations individually and in groups
- written assignments and critical reflections on the required reading

- an individual paper of approximately 3000 words about a subject in the field of social policy in Europe

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses that have ended during that school year. Two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the end of the course. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

*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 following grades are used: A, B, C, D, E or Fail. 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 must 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.

Group assignments, oral presentations, written assignments and other reflections about the reading list are exempted from the grading scale above. The grades awarded for these components are Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass, the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

The final grade is determined by the student's result on the individual paper in the field of social policy in Europe.

### **Entry requirements**

To be admitted to the course, the student must have a Bachelor's degree in Social Work or the equivalent. An equivalence assessment will require at least 90 credits in Social Work.

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

### **Further information**

This course replaces SOAN26 Theories of Social Work and Social Policy in European Policy Making.

## Subcourses in SOAN36, Social Policy in Europe

Applies from V12

1101 Social Policy in Europe, 15,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A