



Faculty of Social Sciences

SOAN67, Civil Society and Social Work, 15 credits *Socialt arbete i det civila samhället, 15 högskolepoäng* **Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå**

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by the board of the School of Social Work on 2021-05-26 and was valid from 2021-09-15, spring semester 2022.

General Information

The course is offered as a freestanding course in social work and may be included in a Degree of Master (120 credits) in Social Work.

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, the students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- identify and analyse the different roles and functions of organisations and actors in civil society at local, national and global levels based on theories of civil society
- using relevant theories and concepts, analyse and critically discuss the importance of the institutional surroundings for civil society organisation engaged in social work
- analyse and problematise the role of social work in civil society organisations with regard to service production, advocacy and community organising

Competence and skills

- use theories about civil society in relation to social work
- analyse how relations with welfare institutions influence the forms of social work practiced in civil society organisations
- problematise, analyse and critically discuss the roles and functions social work

assumes within the scope of civil society's organisations, particularly in relation to changes and challenges in today's society

Judgement and approach

- critically relate to theories of civil society by illustrating an ability to identify the perspectives, values and motives of different actors
- critically reflect on the inclusion of vulnerable groups based on the nature of civil society organisations and their contexts

Course content

The course presents theories about, and empirical examples of, social work in civil society organisations. Socio-political discourses are presented – from local to international level – that influence the conditions for social work in civil society. The course content focuses on the roles and functions of non-profit, voluntary organisations. This includes organising different welfare services, community development being a critical voice in society, aiming to drive change and innovation. Issues covered by the course include current expectations of what social work, including volunteering, in civil society organisations can and should achieve, as well as issues about where the boundaries lie between public actors, market actors and civil society organisations.

The course has three parts:

1. Theories and key concepts. This initial part focuses on different perspectives of the concept of civil society, including theories for understanding and studying civil society on micro, meso and macro levels.
2. Social work in civil society – actors, forms and functions. This part examines the forms and expressions of social work as it is shaped in civil society. Advocacy and voice, services and communities based on identity, and social movements are three basic functions in which volunteers and employed staff interact. This part offers meetings with local voluntary organisations in the welfare area.
3. Social work in civil society – an international and comparative perspective. This part presents Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), which today are large and often labelled hybrid organisations, engaged in humanitarian aid, development and environmental work. In this context, a number of trends are identified such as marketisation and professionalisation, requirements for evidence-based practice and routines for transparency and accountability.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and study visits. The teaching is based on interactive study working methods, individually and in groups. Actors that represent different aspects of civil society organisations participate in seminars.

Assessment

The course has three assessed components:

1. An individually written paper
2. Presentation of the above paper
3. Active participation in the examination seminar

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-examination close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses completed in the past year (catch-up exam). Within a year of a major change or discontinuation of the course, at least two further opportunities for assessment are offered on the same course content. 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.

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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 result is assessed based on the course's learning outcomes. 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 will have shown unacceptable results.

The following are excepted from the grading scale: component 2 (presentation of paper) and 3 Active participation in the examination seminar. The grades awarded for this component are Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail the student has shown unacceptable results

Entry requirements

Entry to the course requires a Degree of Bachelor in Social Work or equivalent.

Subcourses in SOAN67, Civil Society and Social Work

Applies from V22

2201 Civil Society and Social Work, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A