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 is an old version, approved by the board of the Department of Sociology on 2011-12-08 and was valid from 2012-01-16 , spring semester 2012.

General Information

This course is offered as a second cycle single subject course in sociology. The course is also offered within the Master of Science Programme in Sociology.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies	Depth of study relative to the degree requirements
Sociology	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
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Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

- Identify and critically reflect on social policy and welfare management as a form of social analysis.
- Locate, understand, and critically review theories connected to social policy and welfare management as analysed through a sociological framework.
- Demonstrate knowledge of major economic, cultural, political and socio-psychological approaches to theories and concepts on social policy and welfare management.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific, policy and program approaches underlying interventions in the global health and social security arenas.
- Formulate complex research questions on social policy issues.

- Work effectively in a welfare context.
- Make informative oral and written presentations on social policy issues.
- Scientifically communicate and monitor knowledge development within the field of social policy and welfare management.

Course content

The course analyzes, a broad array of social welfare policies including education and human capital development, employment, risk management, income support programs, family support and health care in terms of the following focal questions:

1. What are the responsibilities of the State (nation-states and other units of government) in social welfare service financing and provision? We address this question from both historical and international-comparative contexts.
2. Who should be targeted for publicly-funded social welfare services, and what types of criteria or conditions should governments impose in determining who gets access to services? How can needs be effectively measured?
3. How can social welfare programs be administered efficiently and effectively, particularly under budget constraints?
4. Looking nationally and internationally, what recent social welfare policy innovations and legislative reforms have had important implications for program implementation and the impacts of social welfare programs (positive or negative)?
5. What can be learned from evaluations of social programs about the costs and benefits of alternative types of policies or strategies for their implementation?
6. What are the appropriate roles for public, nonprofit and for-profit organizations in the administration and delivery of social welfare services? How have public perspectives on this issue changed over time, particularly in light of recent public management reforms and initiatives, (e.g., requirements for performance measurement, contracting with private firms for service provision, etc.)?

Course design

The course is based on a combination of lectures and seminars, involving both teachers and students. The lectures have an interdisciplinary focus and students are encouraged to search, analyse and present literature themselves. In seminars students will make oral and/or written presentations of the literature and the specific topics. The course will conclude with a series of seminars in which the students' course papers are discussed and examined. Participation in seminars is mandatory.

Assessment

Assessments is based on:

- Active participation in seminars
- Oral presentations, individually and in groups
- Written examination in the form of papers and critical reflections on the course literature.

Re-examination will be offered after the end of the course. If necessary, a second re-examination will be arranged at a later date.

This is a translation of the course
syllabus approved in Swedish

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 must have shown unacceptable results.

Entry requirements

To be eligible the student must have at least 150 credits including a Bachelor's thesis in one discipline in Social Sciences, or another corresponding subject.

A high level of proficiency in the English language is necessary. English language proficiency demonstrated in one of the following ways: IELTS score (Academic) of 6.0 or more (with none of the sections scoring less than 5.0), TOEFL score of 550 or more (computer based test 213, internet based 79), Cambridge/Oxford - Advanced or Proficiency level, O level/GCSE, or having a Bachelor´s Degree from a university where English is the ONLY language of instruction, according to the latest edition of International Handbook of Universities, or having received a passing grade in English course B (Swedish secondary school).

Exemption from Swedish language requirements is granted.

Further information

The course are corresponding the course SOCN13 Sociology: Social Policy and Welfare Management.

The syllabus was approved by the Board of the Department of Sociology December 8, 2011.

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