



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

SOPM17, Social Policy in Europe, 15 credits

Socialpolitik i Europa, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

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

General Information

The course is included in the main field of Social Work and as an elective second cycle specialisation course in semester 7 of the BSc in Social Work. It 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, Pass.

For a grade of Pass on the course, the student must attain the learning outcomes specified.

Entry requirements

The course is included in the advanced block. To continue to the advanced block (181-210 credits), the student must have passed the whole introductory block (1-90 credits) and at least 60 credits of the intermediate block (91-180 credits).

Further information

This course replaces SOPM07 Theories of Social Work and Social Policy in European Policy Making, 15 credits.

Subcourses in SOPM17, Social Policy in Europe

Applies from V12

1101 Social Policy in Europe, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass