



Faculty of Social Sciences

## **SOPM33, Civil Society and Social Work, 15 credits** *Socialt arbete i det civila samhället, 15 högskolepoäng* Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### **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 an elective advanced course in the seventh semester of the Bachelor's programme in Social Work. The course may also be included in a Master's programme 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 student 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 the organisation of social work in civil society
- analyse and problematise the role of social work in civil society organisations with regard to service production, advocacy and community organisation

#### **Competence and skills**

use theories of civil society in relation to social work

analyse how relations with relevant welfare institutions and actors influence the forms and outcomes of social work in civil society organisations

problematiser, analyse and critically discuss the roles and functions that social work assumes within the scope of civil society 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 how social contributions for vulnerable groups are characterised by 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 – which 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 and being a critical voice in society, aiming to drive change and innovation. These functions include employees, professionals, volunteers and members. 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**

The introductory part focuses on different perspectives and uses 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 employees interact. This part includes meetings with local voluntary organisations in the welfare area.

#### **3. Social work in civil society - from 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, routines for transparency and accountability and relating these to the actors studied.

### **Course design**

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and study visits. The teaching is based on interactive study working methods, individually and in groups. Representatives from different aspects of civil society organisations participate in the seminars and presentations.

### **Assessment**

The course has three assessed components:

1. An individual written paper
2. Presentation of the aforementioned paper
3. Active participation in the assessment 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.

*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 the grade of Pass, students must have completed all assessed assignments and fulfill the learning outcomes for the course.

## Entry requirements

This course is offered in the Advanced block in Semester 7. To commence in the Advanced block, students must have passed the whole Introductory block. Furthermore, students are permitted a maximum of 15 failed credits in the Intermediate block. The final course in semester 6 is not included in the assessment as the result has not always been registered in LADOK at the commencement of the Advanced block.

## Subcourses in SOPM33, Civil Society and Social Work

Applies from V22

2201 Civil Society and Social Work, 15,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass