



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences  
Department of Social Work

1SA212 Internationellt socialt arbete, 15 högskolepoäng  
International Social Work, 15 credits

**Main field of study**

Social Work

**Subject**

Social Work and Social Welfare

**Level**

First cycle

**Progression**

G1N

**Date of Ratification**

Approved 2017-09-20.

Revised 2025-02-24. Clarification of objectives and content, and changes to the reading list.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2026.

**Prerequisites**

General entry requirements for university studies.

**Objectives**

After completing this course, the student is expected to be able to:

1. Describe concepts and theories in international social work
1. Discuss how the challenges of globalisation is handled within social work
1. Describe common social problems in Africa, Europe, America and Asia

1. Describe social work systems around the world and analyse the impact of historical, political, economic, cultural and environmental factors inside these social systems
1. Identify dilemmas in international social work
1. Discuss local as well as global interventions in social work to solve problems

## Content

- Definition of main concepts such as social division and social exclusion based on an intersectional perspective.
- Critical discussion about development and globalisation in relation to social work.
- the importance of human rights in relation to social work.
- Relevant theories of international social work.
- Global social problems (poverty, migration, social risk factors in relation to ill-health between and within different countries, gender based violence, climate change).
- Social systems around the world (Africa, Europe, America, Asia).
- International federation of social work (IFSW).
- International agencies dealing with social issues (UN agencies, Save the Children, Red Cross, MSF, Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation, Grameen Bank, Oxfam).
- Dilemmas in international social work.

## Type of Instruction

The teaching is based on lectures, class discussions, group work, online discussion forums, case examples, seminar presentations and field visits. Seminar presentations are compulsory.

## Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E or F.

Grade A represents the highest grade on the scale, and the subsequent grades follow in descending order, where grade E is the lowest grade that qualifies as a Pass. A grade of F means that the student's performance is assessed as Fail. Fx is not a grade and is only used when a student is permitted to supplement his/her examination.

To obtain a grade for the whole course, it is necessary that the course objectives are achieved on all examinations. The grade for the written examination determines the grade for the whole course. To obtain the grade E on the course, the student must have obtained the grade E for the written examination. To obtain the grade C, the student must have obtained the grade C for the written examination. To obtain the grade A, the grade A must be obtained for the written examination.

The course objectives are examined as follows:

Seminar presentations on issues related to international social work including associated discussions. The presentations comprise 5 credits and examine objectives 1, 2, 4 and 5. The examination is assessed by the grades Fail or Pass.

Individual written examination in the form of a paper on a chosen topic of interest. The

examination comprises 10 credits and examines objectives 3, 5 and 6. The examination is assessed by the grades A-F.

The grading criteria for the A-F scale is specified by the course examiner and communicated to the students in the written study guide. Information about the grading criteria for the course is provided to the students in connection with the start of the course at the latest.

A retake of the examination is provided in accordance with the Local Regulations for First-cycle and Second-cycle Courses and Examination at Linnaeus University.

In the event a student with a disability is entitled to special study support, the examiner will decide on adapted or alternative examination arrangements.

## Course Evaluation

A course evaluation should be conducted during the course or in connection with its conclusion. The results and analysis of the completed course evaluation should be promptly communicated to students who have completed the course. Students participating in the next course instance should be informed of the results of the previous course evaluation and any improvements that have been made, no later than at the start of the course.

## Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following course/courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course:

The course overlaps 1SA210 Social work in an intercultural perspective, 7.5 credits and 1SA211 Social work in an intercultural perspective, 7.5 credits.

## Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Harrison, Gai & Melville, Rose. (2010). *Rethinking Social Work in a Global World*. (chapter 1, 2, 4). New York: Palgrave Macmillan. (ca. 70 p.). ISBN 9780230201354

Healy, Lynne Moore (latest edition). *International Social Work. Professional Action in an interdependent World*. New York: Oxford University Press. (410 p.).

Ife, Jim et al (latest edition). *Human rights and social work: towards rights-based practice*. Port Melbourne, Vic.: Cambridge University Press. (281 p.).

Scientific articles and reports will be distributed during the course, about 200 pages.