



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Social Work

1SA232 Velfärdsstaten och socialpolitiken i Sverige, 15
högskolepoäng
Welfare State and Social Policy in Sweden, 15 credits

Main field of study
Social Work

Subject
Social Work and Social Welfare

Level
First cycle

Progression
G1N

Date of Ratification
Approved 2017-03-08.
Revised 2025-05-30. Revision of modules, content and course literature.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2026.

Prerequisites
General entry requirements for university studies.

Objectives

Upon completion of the course the student shall be able to:

1. Depict the Swedish welfare state's growth as well as further development within the context of Swedish society.
1. Depict the Swedish welfare state's structure and different social policy areas and how these function and impact on the living conditions of different social

groups.

1. Depict the Swedish welfare state's new challenges and development trends as well as current social policy changes and how these relate to the living conditions of different social groups.
1. Depict on a basic level international variations in the welfare systems among the modern capitalistic industrial countries.
1. Give an account on a basic level of key concepts and theories within the social policy research field, including comparative typologies.
1. Describe the Swedish welfare state and social policy based on historical and contemporary perspectives, and compare with other countries.
1. Analyse the Swedish welfare state on a basic level based on concepts and theories within the social policy research field, including comparative perspectives.

Content

In the course the student is introduced to the state of knowledge of the Swedish welfare state and Swedish social policy in a historical, national and international context.

The course consists of three parts, where the first part introduces the student to main concepts and theoretical approaches within social policy research, including comparative typologies. In the first part a theoretical foundation is thus established for further discussion and analysis of national as well as international social policy solutions and changes.

In the second part of the course, the Swedish welfare state is introduced and the structure of different areas of social policy. It focuses on the welfare state's growth and continued development such as current challenges and change trends, on the basis of different social policy systems and how they relate to Swedish society as a whole and the living conditions of different social groups.

The third part of the course addresses the international variation of the welfare system and how the Swedish welfare state model can be characterised in comparison to welfare arrangements of other capitalistic industrialised countries. The third part of the course also introduces comparative perspectives on challenges and opportunities to manage within the areas of social policy, such as digitalisation, globalisation, climate change and crises.

Type of Instruction

A variation of different instruction methods will be used, for example, lectures, literature studies and seminars with group discussions.

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.

Examination of the course objectives takes place by means of seminars comprising a total of 5 credits (assessed by Fail and Pass) and one individual written assignment including an associated oral presentation comprising 10 credits (assessed by the grading scale A-F).

In order to receive a grade of Pass (E), the course objectives must be attained.

For a grade of Pass with Distinction (A-B) in the course, it is required that all examinations are assessed as Pass and the written individual examination requires the grade Pass with Distinction (A-B).

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:
1SA230 Welfare Policy in Sweden, 7.5 credits and 1SA231 Welfare Policy in Sweden, 7.5 credits.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Kvist, Jon, Fritzell, Johan, Hvinden, Björn & Kangas, Olli (Eds.). (2012). *Changing social equality. The Nordic welfare model in the 21st century*. Bristol: Policy Press, (211 p.). ISBN 978-1847426598

Nelson, K., Nieuwenhuis, R., & Yerkes, M. (2022). *Social policy in changing European societies*. Edward Elgar Publishing. (328 p.). ISBN 9781802201710

Pierson, Christopher, Castles, Francis G, Naumann, Ingela K (Eds.). (2013). *The Welfare State Reader*. 3rd edition. Cambridge: Polity Press, (504 p.). ISBN 978-0745663692

Scientific articles and other texts will be included, approx. 150 p.