



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Social Work

1SA232 Välfärdsstaten och socialpolitiken i Sverige, 15  
högskolepoäng

Welfare State and Social Policy in Sweden, 15 credits

### **Main field of study**

Social Work

### **Subject Group**

Social Work and Social Welfare

### **Level of classification**

First Level

### **Progression**

G1N

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved by Faculty of Social Sciences 2017-03-08

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2018

### **Prerequisites**

NO VALUE DEFINED

## 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
2. 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
3. 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
4. Depict on a basic level international variations in the welfare systems among the modern capitalistic industrial countries
5. Give an account on a basic level of key concepts and theories within the social policy research field, including comparative typologies
6. Describe the Swedish welfare state and social policy based on historical and contemporary perspectives, and compare with other countries
7. 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

state and Swedish social policy in a historical, national and international context. The course addresses the Swedish welfare state as well as the structure of different social policy areas. It focuses on the welfare state's growth and continued development on current challenges and change trends. It also introduces the welfare state's shape and the structure of different social policy systems and how they relate to Swedish society as a whole and the living conditions of different social groups. Furthermore, 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 course also introduces key concepts and theoretical attempts within social policy research, including comparative typologies, which are used as tools for systematic descriptions and analyses within the area.

### 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, Fx or F.

The grade A comprises the highest grading stage, the remaining grades follow in declining order where the grade E comprises the lowest grading stage for a pass mark. The grade F means that the student has failed the course. Fx is not a grade and is only used when a student is permitted to supplement his/her examination.

In order to be awarded the Pass grade for the course as a whole, it is necessary to attain the course outcomes for all examinations. Grades from the three examinations are weighed together to determine the grade for the course as a whole. In order to be awarded the grade E on the course, it is necessary for the student to receive the grade E or higher for both written examinations. In order to be awarded the grade C it is necessary for the student to receive the grade C for both written examinations. In order to be awarded the grade A it is necessary to receive the grade A for both written examinations.

The course outcomes are examined as follows:

An individual written take-home examination which examines knowledge of the Swedish welfare state and international welfare state variations. The written assignment covers 7 credits and is assessed with the grades A-F.

An individual or group-based verbal student presentation which examines knowledge of a social policy intervention, its history and contemporary development trends. The assignment also examines the ability to verbally present knowledge of the selected intervention during a seminar with related group discussions. The verbal student presentation corresponds to 1 credit and is assessed with the grades of Fail or Pass.

An individual written examination of a paper which examines basic skills to analyse the Swedish welfare state and compare it to counterparts in other countries based on key concepts and theories. The assignment also examines the ability to reason in writing on a level which fulfils basic requirements for academic writing. The assignment corresponds to 7 credits and is assessed with the grades A-F.

Grading criteria for the A-F scale is specified by the course examiner and communicated to the student by means of the written study supervision. Students are informed about the grading criteria of the course at the latest in connection with the course start.

### Course Evaluation

A course evaluation is conducted during the course or shortly after the course ends. The results and analysis of the course evaluation should be communicated to students who have completed the course and the students who participate during the following course session.

The course evaluation is anonymous.

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### Credit 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 ISA230 Welfare Policy in Sweden, 7.5 credits and ISA231 Welfare Policy in Sweden, 7.5 credits.

### Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Hilson, Mary. (2008). *The Nordic model: Scandinavia since 1945*. London: Reaktion, (234 p.). ISBN 978-1861893666

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

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 added, approx. 150 p.