



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Social Work

4SA720 Socialt arbete i tider av migration: Perspektiv på politik, institutioner och praktik, 15 högskolepoäng

Social Work in Times of Migration: Perspectives on Policies, Institutions and Practices, 15 credits

### **Main field of study**

Social Work

### **Subject Group**

Social Work and Social Welfare

### **Level of classification**

Second Level

### **Progression**

A1N

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved by Faculty of Social Sciences 2017-12-13

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2018

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies and specific entry requirements.

\* 90 credits of social work or equivalent subjects.

\* English B/6 or the equivalent.

## Objectives

### **General Goals:**

After completing the course, the student will be able to:

- critically read and review current research on migration and social work
- understand current theories of migration, nation, belonging, and categorisation of refugees and migrants as well as be able to apply these in analyses of contemporary immigration/social/public policy, welfare institutions, social work practices, and the living conditions of particular individuals and groups.

### **Module 1: Perspectives on migration and citizenship in pluralistic societies (7.5 credits)**

After completing the course, the student will be able to:

- critically examine theories about global migration and how different discourses concerning migration have emerged and developed over time
- critically examine theories about nations, citizenship, sovereignty and belonging, and how these theories generate different discourses and policies as well as assess different processes of inclusion and exclusion

- discuss and critically reflect upon different categories of migratory experiences, e.g. asylum seekers, migrants, guest workers, refugees, new arrivals, and unaccompanied children, in relation to theories about migration and social work.

## **Module 2: Social work practices and institutions in the context of migration (7.5 credits)**

After completing the course, the student will be able to:

- analyse in depth key immigration policies in a Scandinavian welfare state context from a comparative perspective
- critically discuss social work as a response to vulnerability and how immigration policies influence social work practice as well as the living conditions of particular individuals and groups
- apply a critical and intersectional analysis of social change, social rights, and social work practice with people from migrant and refugee backgrounds
- critically assess ambivalences in social work between care and control, personal and professional encounters, and the impact of power relations in social work practices and institutions in the context of migration.

## **Content**

### **General Content**

During the course, current theories of migration and particularly social work are presented and problematized. These theories then provide the base for more in-depth study and analysis of the connection between social work and migration in relation to immigration/social/public policy, welfare institutions, social work practices, and the living conditions of particular individuals and groups.

### **Module 1: Perspectives on migration and citizenship in pluralistic societies (7.5 credits)**

This module concentrates on three main issues: why people migrate, how ideas about migration and images of migrants are constructed, and what the impact is of different theories of nation, citizenship, sovereignty, and belonging at various levels in contemporary society. The module examines how categorizations of refugees, migrants, and their different statuses are formed in intersections between various discourses and policies in Sweden, the EU, and on a global scale. The module also assesses how these categories and statuses impact social work and different processes of inclusion and exclusion of migrants.

### **Module 2: Social work practices and institutions in the context of migration (7.5 credits)**

The second module focuses on social work institutions and practices and how they are guided by immigration/social/public policies as well as ethical considerations. This module takes an in-depth look at four main issues central to social work:

1. social work as a response to people's vulnerability
2. the control/care dilemma
3. social work as a method of enhancing social rights and belonging as well as fostering social wellbeing and change
4. professional encounters and treatment in migration contexts.

## **Type of Instruction**

The course includes lectures, seminars, group work, field studies, tutoring, and individual assignments.

## **Examination**

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

The grade of A is the highest grade on the scale and the remaining grades follow in descending order with the grade of E being the lowest grade that is a passing grade. The

grade of F means that the student's performance is assessed as insufficient and the student has failed. Fx is not a final grade and is only used when a student is allowed to potentially improve her/his examination results through supplemental work/assignments. Students who do not pass the first examination (i.e. receive the grade of F) will be provided the opportunity to take a reexam.

**Module 1: Perspectives on migration and citizenship in pluralistic societies (7.5 credits)**  
Group assignment (1.5 credits): the assignment is to prepare and lead a seminar based on a selection of topics from the course and course literature.

Individual oral assignment (1.5 credits): the assignment is to select, prepare, and present a scientific article about migration and social work relevant to one of the topics of the course (Module 1).

Individual written assignment (4.5 credits): the assignment is to write a theoretical essay of 5-6 pages about migration and social work relevant to one of the topics of the course (Module 1).

**Module 2: Social work practices and institutions in the context of migration (7.5 credits)**

Group assignment, literature seminar (1.5 credits): the assignment is to prepare, present, and discuss literature relevant to the course chosen by the students.

Individual oral assignment (1.5 credits): the assignment is to prepare, conduct, and present a minor "field study" at a social work institution/organisation or among social workers (at state, regional, municipal agencies or private agencies, NGOs or among volunteers).

Individual written assignment (4.5 credits): the assignment is to write a paper with an analysis of the material collected about social work institutions/organisations or social workers during the minor "field study."

To receive a passing grade (E), the course objectives must be achieved. For a grade of C, all written and oral assignments must be graded with at least a C and the student must actively contribute to fruitful discussions during seminars. For a grade of A, all written and oral assignments must be graded with an A.

### Course Evaluation

A course evaluation will be carried out at the end of the course in accordance with the guidelines of Linnaeus University. Results and an analysis of these results are presented to the program council as well as course lecturers and students who partook in the survey. The next time the course is given, the students will be informed of the results of the previous course evaluation and any changes that have been made to the course. The course evaluation is conducted anonymously.

### Required Reading and Additional Study Material

#### **Module 1: Perspectives on migration and citizenship in pluralistic societies (7.5 credits)**

Ahmed, Sara. (2012). *On Being Included. Racism and Diversity in Institutional Life*. Durham: Duke University Press. (256 p). ISBN 0-8223-5236-2

Castles, Stephen & Miller, Mark. J. (2011). *The Age of Migration. International Population Movements in the Modern World*. Basingstoke: Palgrave. (420 p). ISBN 978-0-230-35577-4

Gibney, Matthew. J. (2004). *The Ethics and Politics of Asylum: Liberal Democracy and the Response to Refugees*. Cambridge. Cambridge university press. (300 p). ISBN 0-521-80417-5

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

Sassen, Saskia. (1990). *Guests and Aliens*. New York: New Press. (206 p). ISBN 1

SASSEN, Saskia. (1997). *Guests and Aliens*. NEW YORK. NEW PRESS. (200 p). ISBN 1-56584-481-5

Additional scientific articles (approximately 100 pages)

**Module 2: Social work practices and institutions in the context of migration (7.5 credits)**

Dominelli, Lena. (2008). *Anti-Racist Social Work*. London: Palgrave. (275 p). ISBN 0-230-54301-4

Humphries, Beth. (2008). *Social Work Research for Social Justice*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. (232 p). ISBN 9780230201354

Kohli, Ravi K. S. (2007). *Social Work with Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children*. Palgrave Macmillan. (240 p). ISBN 1-4039-8965-6

Additional scientific articles (approximately 150 pages)