



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Social Work

4SA722 Socialt arbete i kontexter av postkolonial migration:
Perspektiv på politik, institutioner och praktik, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Social Work in Contexts of Postcolonial Migration: Perspectives on
Policies, Institutions and Practices, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Colonial and postcolonial studies
Social Work

Subject

Social Work and Social Welfare

Level

Second cycle

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2020-06-10.

Revised 2025-02-24. Clarification of objectives and content, and revision of the course literature.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2026.

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies and specific entry requirements:
Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work, or equivalent education in social sciences/behavioural science/humanities, and English A/5, or the equivalent.

Objectives

After completing the course, students shall be able to:

- analyse key theories and practices of social work in postcolonial contexts, locally, nationally as well as globally
- critically discuss ethics of social work as a response to vulnerability and how migration 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 with 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

This course focuses on social work institutions and practices and how they are guided by migration-/social-/public policies as well as ethical considerations. The course engages with four main issues central to social work:

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

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

Type of Instruction

The course includes lectures and seminars.

Examination

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

Examination of the course takes place by means of one oral seminar group assignment, one individual oral seminar assignment and one individual written assignment.

In order to pass the course (receive a grade of E), the course objectives must be attained. For a grade of D-A, the criteria for each grade must be attained in a weighted assessment of all the examination assignments.

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.

Should the university determine that a student is entitled to special educational support due to impairment, the examiner may provide the student with an adapted test or the student may carry out the examination in an alternative way.

Course Evaluation

A course evaluation is carried out either during or at the end of the course. Results and analysis of the evaluation are presented to the students who have completed the course as well as to new students at the following course date, together with any improvements made.

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:

4SA720 Social Work in times of Migration: Perspectives on Policies, Institutions and Practices, 15 credits.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Dominelli, Lena. (2018) *Anti-Racist Social Work*. London: Palgrave, (275 p.). ISBN 9781137534194.

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.

Ioakimidis, Vasilios & Wyllie, Aaron (eds.) (2023). *Social work's histories of complicity and resistance: a tale of two professions*. Bristol: Policy Press. (304 p.). 9781447364283.

Additional scientific articles (approximately 400 p.)