



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Social Work

4SA820 Kritiskt socialt arbete och social förändring, 7,5
högskolepoäng
Critical social work and social change, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Social Work

Subject

Social Work and Social Welfare

Level

Second cycle

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2022-01-24.

Revised 2025-06-04. Revision of the reading list.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2025.

Prerequisites

165 higher education credits of which completed methodology course at the first cycle/G2 level in social work or equivalent social scientific/behavioural scientific studies.

Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Analyse critically the exercise of power and the processes of exclusion in the welfare state's institutions and in society.

- Account for and discuss ethical values in social work.
- Analyse and discuss work for social change based on critical perspectives on social work.
- Identify and illustrate in what ways the work on social change may be structured and organised to create economic, social and ecological sustainability.

Content

The course discusses the following content:

- Social change, social justice/injustice, recognition and inclusion/exclusion.
- Power critical analysis and theory formation.
- Ethical values in social work, and its organisation and practice.
- Social work in a global as well as national context.

Type of Instruction

Teaching takes place in the form of lectures, seminars and workshops.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

Examination takes place by means of two papers which shall be presented in writing and orally in seminars. In order to receive a grade of Pass in the course, both these assignments require the grade of Pass. For a grade of Pass with Distinction in the course, both assignments require the grade of Pass with Distinction.

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 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.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Ahmed, Sara (2011) *Vithetens hegemoni*. Hägersten: Tankekraft. (selected pages, ca. 150 pages) ISBN: 9789186273194

Banks, Sarah (2012). *Ethic and Values in Social Work*. London: Red Globe Press/Macmillan International Higher Education (selected pages, ca. 150 p.) ISBN: 9781137607188

Dahlstedt, Magnus, Gruber, Sabine, Herz, Marcus, Lalander, Philip (eds.) (2021). *Socialt arbete: Rörelse, motstånd, förändring*. Lund: Studentlitteratur (selected pages, 150 p.) ISBN: 9789144143163

Dominelli, Lena (2012). *Green Social Work: From Environmental Crises to Environmental Justice*. Cambridge: Polity Press (selected pages, 100 p.) ISBN: 0745654010

Garrett, Paul Michael. (2018). *Social Work and Social Theory: Making Connections*. London: Sage (selected pages, 200 p.) ISBN: 9781447341888

Humphries, Beth (2008). *Social Work Research for Social Justice*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan (selected pages 150 p.) ISBN: 1403949352

Additionally, scientific publications (open access) comprising approximately 250 pages are also included, to be chosen in consultation with the course coordinator.