



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Social Studies

4SO425 Den nordiska välfärdsmodellen i ett globalt sammanhang, 7,5 högskolepoäng

The Nordic Welfare Model in a Global Context, 7.5 credits

### **Main field of study**

Sociology

### **Subject Group**

Sociology

### **Level of classification**

Second Level

### **Progression**

A1N

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved by Faculty of Social Sciences 2015-11-25

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2016

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements for studies at the advanced level and specific entry requirements:

- at least 90 credits in Sociology or another relevant subject within the social sciences
- English proficiency level B

### **Objectives**

After completing this course, students shall be able to:

- explain the historical and institutional development of the welfare model in Scandinavia and its relationship to the socio-economic and political structures of the Nordic societies;
- comprehend the theoretical and empirical notions of global societal challenges, development, and be able to situate the Nordic welfare model within a larger “family of nations”

## Content

The Nordic welfare model is a key issue in contemporary discussion about global social development or the existence of a human “civilizing process”. On and off, the notion of a specific Nordic social model – as a common pool resource-institution with full employment, high taxes and generous social benefits from child allowances/care to old age pensions – has been extremely controversial also in the social sciences. This course outlines its place in the world of today as well as the evolution of its constituent institutional features or the relationship between welfare, state and society. In focus are the similarities and differences between the Nordic social welfare system and the various welfare systems of rest of the world, social Europe in particular. The relationship between macro-economic and party politics in the set-up of a modern welfare state comes to the fore as well as conflicts and harmonization between member-states of the European Union. Moreover, this course goes into the details of Nordic welfare institution-building or social engineering, Sweden in particular, and takes on such issues as the financing of welfare in a period of growing social disparities (inequalities and poverty), privatization and marketization of previously core public tasks. The course will also discuss the role the economy and the market plays in relation to the state and civil society in the contemporary transformations of globe. In this course various varieties of capitalism and welfare systems, political aspects of the workings of economy and questions of world economic order and the transformations of the world economy will have an impact on its focus on the Nordic welfare model.

## Type of Instruction

Tutoring consists of lectures, seminars and assignments.

## Examination

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

Grade A is the highest grade and all other grades follow a falling scale in which grade E is the lowest grade to pass the course. A grade F means that the student has failed the course. Fx is not a grade and is only used when a student is allowed to complement her/his examination.

Grading is based on active participation in seminars, written reports from study visits and a final paper. To pass ( E ) requires that the course objectives are achieved . For a grade of C is required for the written assignment has been judged by at least C and that the student has actively contributed to fruitful discussions during the seminar. For a grade of A requires that the written assignment assessed with A as well as very good activity at the seminar.

## Course Evaluation

A course evaluation will be carried out at the end of the course in accordance with the guidelines of Linnaeus University. The compilation is delivered to the programme council, as well as to the teacher of the course. The next time the course is given the students are informed of the results of the previous course evaluation and any changes that have been made in the course.

## Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Hort, Sven (2014). *Social Policy, Welfare State and Civil Society in Sweden*. Vols. I-II. Lund: Arkiv, (550 pages).

Therborn, Göran (2011). *The World – a beginner’s guide*. Polity press (265 s.).

Plus scientific articles, about 500 pages.