



## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

### **SW2275 Social Work, Service Users Participation and Organization, 15 credits**

Social Work, Service Users Participation and Organization, 15 högskolepoäng  
*Second Cycle*

---

#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2009-06-29 and was last revised on 2019-08-16 by Department of Social Work to be valid from 2019-08-16, autumn semester of 2019.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* Department of Social Work

#### **Position in the educational system**

The course, Social Work Service Users Participation and Organization, 15 higher education credits, is a programme course given within the Master's Programme in Social Work and Human Rights within the Faculty of Social Sciences. The course is an in depth course.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in Social Work and Human Rights (S2SWH)

*Main field of studies*

Social Work

*Specialization*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

To be eligible for the course, Social Work Service Users Participation and Organization, 15 higher education credits, a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, or in related topics, and proficiency in English are required.

## Learning outcomes

After completing the course the students shall

### *Knowledge and Understanding*

- have achieved a deeper knowledge and understanding of how human service organizations are constructed and functioning (i.e. leadership, communication, work distribution and organizations cultures)
- have acquired a deeper knowledge and understanding of the professionalization process in general and in social work
- have achieved a deeper knowledge of power theories and how power relations are embedded in different social work methods
- have achieved a deeper knowledge of different types of service users involvement and participation in the field of social work
- have achieved a deeper knowledge of construction of the social economy in different countries

### *Skills and Abilities*

- be able to analyze and discuss how organizational aspects influence different types of social problems and social interventions
- be able to discern and discuss different professional dilemmas in the field of social work
- be able to analyze how power imbalances are inherent in different kinds of social work
- be able to analyze and take part in different types of service users initiatives (i.e. self help organizations, social cooperatives or advocacy)

### *Judgement and Approach*

- develop further their own values and attitudes concerning professional ethics and power relations in social work
- develop further their own values and attitudes concerning social work methods, empowerment and different types of service users initiatives.

## Course content

The course deals with the following topics in relation to social work contexts both locally and globally:

Theories and research about human service organizations.

Different methods and technologies of social work within human service organizations.

Contemporary challenges for the human service organizations and changes in the social welfare sector, globally and locally.

Theories and research about professionalization in social work, professional values and dilemmas.

Differences and similarities between public human service organizations and non-

governmental organizations (belonging to the third sector) according to legislation, work models and service production in social work.

Theories about power and different types of power relations in social work.

Service users participation and empowerment in different fields of social work.

Social work within the social economy and the third sector, i.e. the case of social enterprises.

Swedish social work - a special case in a global perspective.

### **Form of teaching**

In the beginning of the course the students will be divided into groups and assigned to different areas of social work, for example family issues, drug addiction, rehabilitation after psychiatric problems or criminality etc. Throughout the course the students will combine theoretical studies with collecting material from this area, interviewing professionals and service users, analyzing documents and writing reports about different themes in the selected field.

The group work will currently be discussed, developed, and presented in class and in writing. The students will be examined both in groups and individually.

A student who has failed a test twice has the right to change examiner, unless weighty argument can be adduced. The application shall be sent to the Board of Department and has to be in writing.

*Language of instruction:* English

### **Assessment**

#### **Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

#### **Course evaluation**

The course is evaluated in a separate evaluation protocol at the end of the course. The results of the evaluation will be communicated to the students and will function as a guide for the development of the course. The course director guarantees that the evaluation is considered regularly and systematically at the end of the course.