



## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

### **EU4220 The European Social Dimension, 7.5 credits**

Den europeiska sociala dimensionen, 7,5 högskolepoäng

*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Political Science on 2017-01-26 and was last revised on 2019-08-23 to be valid from 2020-04-21, spring semester of 2020.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* Department of Political Science

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

The course is a semi-elective within the Executive Master's Programme in European Studies. The course is also given as a single subject course. The course is an in-dept course in the second cycle.

*Main field of studies*

European Studies

*Specialization*

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

Admission to the course requires the successful completion of a minimum of 7,5 credits from either one or a combination of the courses EU4110 'Co-operation and Conflict in Europe: current theory and research' (7,5 credits) and EU4310 'Research Methods in European Studies' (15 credits), or equivalent knowledge. Applicants must prove their knowledge of English: English 6/English B from Swedish Upper Secondary School or the equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS.

#### **Learning outcomes**

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

*Knowledge and understanding*

- Describe, map and compare welfare systems, welfare inequalities and welfare challenges in Europe;
- Categorize and account for different dimensions, forms and instruments of social policymaking, and specify the judicial and political conditions of social policymaking in the EU;
- Summarize empirical research results from three areas of research: Work, employment and industrial relations; Migration and ethnicity; Civil society organisations and social movements with a particular focus on gender related issues.
- Identify relevant theoretical perspectives and define central concepts used in research in the three areas listed above.

*Competence and skills*

- Demonstrate the ability to reflect orally and in writing on the development and challenges of the European Social Dimension in connection to different dimensions, forms and instruments of social policymaking in the EU.
- Analyze specific social issues by applying different theoretical approaches (such as comparative vs. EU-level analyses, negative vs. positive integration, and “from above” vs. “from below” analyses).
- Appreciate and elaborate on the relevance of different theoretical approaches and existing empirical knowledge for their own area of work.
- Independently produce text in accordance with good academic practice, including proper citation technique and use of references.

*Judgement and approach*

- Evaluate the importance of different theoretical and methodological approaches for the conceptualization and understanding of the European Social Dimension
- Critically discuss the applicability of different perspectives and approaches when studying specific issues relating to the European Social Dimension and European social policy and law.

**Course content**

The course addresses empirical and theoretical aspects of the European Social Dimension. Empirical issues regarding welfare in European states, the distribution of risks and rights among citizens, and the development of common European social policies, are discussed in connection to three theoretical approaches: A) The difference between comparative perspectives on welfare in Europe vs. EU-level approaches to social issues and policies. B) The significance of negative and positive European integration for understanding challenges and prospects of European social policies. C) The distinction between categories of people exposed to social risks as identified

“from above” vs. groups who identify themselves as exposed to risks and organize or act on the basis of that “from below”.

The course consists of two modules:

*Welfare Challenges and Social Policy in Europe, 2,5 credits.* This module gives a general overview of the European social dimension and what issues it relates to. The module addresses three general themes: Welfare and inequalities in Europe from a comparative perspective; Dimensions, forms and instruments of common European social policies, and; Legal perspectives on the social dimension, particularly as concerns rights and obligations.

*Social Issues, Actors and Identities, 5 credits.* This module addresses three particular areas of the social dimension: Work, employment and industrial relations; Migration and ethnicity, and; Civil society organisations and social movements with a particular focus on gender related issues. The students will first acquaint themselves with all three areas, and thereafter explore one of them more thoroughly through an individual analysis.

### **Form of teaching**

The main format of the course is web-based distance learning, combined with two days on campus. The main forms of instruction are lectures and seminars, both online and on campus. This will be combined with individual and group assignments and peer feedback. Instructions, material and deadlines for online exercises and assignments are posted on an online learning platform.

*Language of instruction:* English

### **Assessment**

Students will be evaluated on the basis of one exam on each course module. The first module is examined through a short paper covering the themes of the module, with the possibility to get the grades fail/pass/pass with distinction. The second module will be examined through a longer paper in which the author analyses specific problems connected to one of the three areas of research focused on in the second module, with the possibility to get the grades fail/pass/pass with distinction.

In addition to these exams there are seven mandatory individual and group assignments, which will have to be passed in order to pass the course. The grades given is fail/pass. There will be three such assignments during each module. In addition it will be mandatory that the student orally presents his/her final exam paper at the course conference at the end of the course, and that the student comments on one of the other students papers at the conference. Students who are not able to take part in the scheduled mandatory assignments will be given an opportunity to partake in an

equivalent assignment as soon as is possible. If the student is not present at the course conference, he/she will have to upload a “voice over” power point presentation at the course platform, and give comments in written to one of the other students papers. Completion of examined individual and group assignments are permitted during the course and up to three weeks after the course. If the student does not submit the completion on time, the student will be failed on the assignment.

It is not allowed to discuss answers and / or formulate answers to the individual assignments in collaboration with others. The individual assignments are to be carried out individually and if you cooperate with another student in an unauthorized way, it will be considered cheating.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

At least five occasions shall be offered the students to pass a course or part of a course (Chapter 6, Section 21 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given. This may not be in conflict with Chapter 6 Section 21 of Higher Education Ordinance.

### **Grades**

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

To obtain the Pass grade the student must meet all the expectations in the learning outcomes. To obtain Pass with distinction the work of the student should show a very good ability to connect theoretical analyses to practical outcomes, a good, independent analytical ability and that written assignments fulfill high academic standards in terms of structure and language.

### **Course evaluation**

The student will be given the opportunity to do a course evaluation. The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.