



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND WORK SCIENCE

SC1218 Markets and Welfare in Contemporary Society: Local and Global Perspectives, 15 credits

Marknader och välfärd i det samtida samhället: Lokala och globala perspektiv, 15 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Sociology and Work Science on 2023-05-29 to be valid from 2023-08-28, autumn semester of 2023.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Sociology and Work Science

Position in the educational system

Main field of studies

Sociology

Specialization

G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

Minimum 30 ECTS in social sciences are required for participation in the course. Good knowledge of English is a requirement: English B/ English 6 in the Swedish high school or similar level in the internationally accepted examination in English such as TOEFL or IELTS.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- Identify the central topics that frame theoretically and empirically relations between capitalist markets and welfare states in contemporary societies, describe and

systematize theoretical perspectives and contemporary empirical research in this area.

- Define, explain, and analyze varieties of capitalism and welfare regimes, critique of classical approaches, and their connection to different domains of welfare states.
- Summarize and present updated empirical research directed to the analysis of marketization, economization, and financialization of different spheres in welfare economies and their social consequences.

Competence and skills

- Orally and in written discuss and analytically scrutinize central concepts and theories of the course.
- Apply concepts and theories in the independent argumentation and analysis of empirical findings.
- Formulate possible research ideas within courses different topics individually and in group and develop a written research project plan individually.

Judgement and approach

- Identify and evaluate the need for new knowledge regarding the relations between capitalist markets and welfare states. Critically reflect on the choice of research method, societal relevance, and ethics of research in the individual written project plan.
- Present, evaluate and critically discuss theoretical and empirical ideas of course participants.
- Critically discuss the positions of authors of the course theories and concepts in relation to the societal challenges – sustainability and inequality.

Course content

This course aims to create broad knowledge about sociological perspective on relations between capitalist markets and welfare. Welfare is approached here in the broad sense as domains that traditionally were supported and regulated by the welfare states, and that has been extensively marketized in the recent decennia. Actual research topics developed at the department comprise the core themes to reflect the relations between markets and welfare: varieties of capitalism and welfare regimes, labour markets and relations, financialization and economization of pensions, healthcare and education, commercialization of intimacy and emotions, economization and marketization of environment, welfare crime and securitization. Course participants are expected to actively participate in all forms of teaching – independent individual preparations, literature search and presentation, groupwork before and during the seminars, group presentations and individual critical reflections, peer-review.

Form of teaching

Primary forms of education are lectures, seminars, workshops and project work (or corresponding), other forms of teaching can also take place.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

If a student who has twice received a failing grade for the same examination component wishes to change examiner ahead of the next examination session, such a request should be made to the department in writing and should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for study support for students with disabilities, the examiner may, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to internships and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

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

Course evaluation

Course leader creates an opportunity for the students to participate in a written anonymous evaluation during the course or after the course is finished. If possible, students should even get an opportunity for oral evaluation. A summary of the result, and eventual propositions for changes should be available to the students and discussed in connection with the course introduction next time the course takes place.