



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

SQ4247 Substance Abuse and Addiction, 10 credits

Missbruk och beroende, 10 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Social Work on 2012-10-05 and was last revised on 2018-05-30 to be valid from 2018-09-15, spring semester of 2019.

Field of education: Nursing Science 40% and Social Sciences 60%

Department: Department of Social Work

Position in the educational system

This course is a deepening of first cycle course included in the Bachelor of Science in Social Work 210 credits

The course is included in the Supplementary social work education for persons with a foreign degree of 90 credits.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Bachelor of Science in Social Work (S1SOP) and 2) Supplementary social work education for persons with a foreign degree (S1KSO)

Main field of studies

Social Work

Specialization

G2F, First Cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

To enroll on the course, the student needs to have passed courses SQ4111 Social work (30 credits), SQ4122 Law for social work (15 credits), and SQ4131 social work's theories, methods and ethics (15 credits), according to the social work programme syllabus at the University of Gothenburg, or have equivalent knowledge through approved studies of at least 60 credits in a related field as well as relevant professional or vocational experience.

To enroll on the course, the student needs to have completed and passed the course KSO001 Social work and welfare politics for supplementary social worker program (10 credits), according to programme syllabus of the supplementary social worker program for individuals with foreign qualification.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student is expected to be able:

Knowledge and understanding

- Provide an account of and discuss the life circumstances of individuals with risky use, abuse, and dependency on alcohol, narcotics and other chemical substances, as well as certain forms of behavioural addictions, at individual, group and structural levels, with special consideration of power dimensions as class, sex/gender, ethnicity and age.
- Describe and explain how the experiences of people who use alcohol, narcotics and other chemical substances as well as certain forms of behaviours have come to be established as social problems and objects for judicial regulation and social intervention, as well as discuss the consequences of this development from the perspective of users, children, and relatives.
- Provide an account of methods in social work with individuals with drug misuse and addiction problem as well as problematise the organisational and legal aspects that surround the field.
- Describe current research in the area of drug misuse and addiction with relevance for social work.

Competence and skills

- independently distinguish and critically review the importance of different theoretical perspectives for an understanding of the field drug misuse and addiction. on the basis of a completed review provide an account of possible consequences of different perspectives on individual, group and structural level as well as for strategies for action in social work
- prepare, carry out and critically process a social work assessment in the area of drug misuse and addiction
- apply a child and relatives' perspective in the area of drug misuse and addiction

Judgement and approach

- critically review and independently evaluate current research with relevance for social work in the area of drug misuse and addiction
- distinguish and reflect on your own and social attitudes, values and approaches in relation to alcohol, narcotics and other chemical substances as well as certain forms

of behavioural addiction

- problematise and form a position on ethical aspects and professional approach in social work with individuals with a misuse/addiction problem considering a user, child, and relatives' perspective

Course content

The course is one of three courses in the profile area social exclusion. The field of drug misuse and addiction is interdisciplinary to its character and the course integrates knowledge from different fields, with social work (in theory and practice) as a central theme. The course for example introduces a constructionist perspective on drug misuse and addiction, with a focus on alcohol, narcotics and other chemical substances as well as certain forms of behavioural addiction.

In the course, knowledge is given of the extent and development of drug use, both in a Swedish and international context. Examples of central topics are paths in and out of drug abuse and addiction, living conditions, social relations and social networks for individuals with misuse problems. Focus is also given to children and relatives in families where drug misuse/addiction is present. Theories about normality, deviation, social excluding and control are covered. A particular focus is how alcohol, narcotics and other chemical substances as well as certain forms of behavioural addiction have come to be established as social problems as well as how power dimensions as class, sex/gender, ethnicity, sexuality, and age influence social conditions for clients.

Other fields that are covered in the course are alcohol and drug politics/policies, interventions, and methods that are relevant for social work with drug misuse and addictions as well as current research in the area. Organisational, legal, ethical, and normative aspects in the social work with drug misuse and addictions, considering a user, child, and relatives' perspective, are other central themes.

Experiential and theoretical knowledge are tested against one another, with the aim to stimulate the development of a reflective, professional approach. Strong emphasis is placed on deepening course participants' ability to take ethically - based positions within professional social work in the drug misuse and addictions field.

Form of teaching

Applied forms for teaching are lectures, seminars, field-based activities, a group assignment, and group supervision.

Study visits, guest lectures and participation by user groups aims to facilitate connection between theoretical studies and application in practical social work in the drug misuse and addictions field. The aim of the seminars is to create space to allow theories and concepts to be discussed in small groups for joint processing and application. The group assignment aims partly to stimulate and train cooperation, communication abilities, and

joint problem-solving. It also partly aims to train proficiency and application of theories, concepts and models.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Assessment

The intended learning outcomes of course are assessed through:

1. A project work that is written in groups of 2-3 students. The project work is presented orally at a seminar where the students review and discusses the work of another group. The written project work and the oral presentation of the same is assessed with Pass (G) or Fail (U).
2. An individual written take-home examination that is carried out at the end of the course. The individual take-home examination is assessed with Pass with distinction (VG), Pass (G) or Fail (U).

To pass the course, students are also required to attend and actively participation in compulsory components and seminars. The seminars require active participation to pass.

In case of absence from compulsory components, a written assignment is required.

A student who has taken two examinations in a course or a part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to another examiner, unless there are special reasons. (HF chapter 6 section 22). Such a request should be submitted in writing to the responsible department. At least five examination opportunities should be offered to the students to pass a course or part of a course.

In cases where a course has ceased or gone through major changes, the student should be guaranteed access to at least three examination sessions (including ordinary examination sessions) within a time period of at least one year, and in relation to the design of the original course. This may not be in conflict with Chapter 6, Section 21, Higher Education Ordinance.

Grades

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

To pass (Pass) the learning outcomes need to be met. To pass with distinction (Pass with distinction) an especially good ability to discuss independently and provide critical analysis needs to be demonstrated, as well as particularly good written language skills.

Course evaluation

Course evaluation takes place continuously during the course through dialogue with the students, a compulsory workplace meeting, as well as through a special course evaluation at the end of the course. Changes to the course content, literature and

pedagogy are presented at the next course introduction.