



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

SQ4248 Criminology, 10 credits

Kriminalitet, 10 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Social Work on 2012-10-05 and was last revised on 2021-02-01 to be valid from 2021-04-21, spring semester of 2021.

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 can also be offered as a freestanding course.

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), 2) Programme for Professional Degree in Social Work (S1SOC) and 3) 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 be eligible for the course, the student is required to have passed the following courses: SQ4111 Social work, 30 credits, SQ4122 Law and social work, 15 credits and SQ4131 theories, methods and ethics of social work, 15 credits according to the programme syllabus of the social work degree at the University of Gothenburg, or have equivalent knowledge through passed studies of at least 60 credits in adjacent fields along with 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

- describe and problematise criminological theories and central concepts that explain criminality and victimisation on individual as well as societal levels
- give an account of preventative crime theory and practice in relation to social work
- explain entry and exit processes from crime, with special consideration of class, ethnicity, gender and generation with relevance for social work
- give an account of current relevant criminological research

Competence and skills

- Problematiser criminological knowledge in relation to social problems and social work
- Apply criminological perspectives in analyses of offenders and victims as connected to social work
- Analyse living conditions of offenders and victims on individual, group and structural levels, from psychosocial, social political and socio-economic perspectives
- Identify crime prevention measures on individual and societal levels and explain its relevance for social work

Judgement and approach

- critically reflect on social norms, values and crime policy approaches in relation to offenders and victims
- consider and evaluate current research that relates to offenders and victims with relevance for social work
- problematise and take a stand on ethical implications of crime prevention measures and criminal justice processes in relation to social work

Course content

The course is one of three elective options in the profiling area social exclusion and control and applies a constructivist standpoint. The aim of the course is that students should acquire criminological knowledge about criminality as a social phenomenon,

about people who commit crime, as well as about crime policy and proposals that can be related to social conditions, with relevance for social work and professional social workers.

The following themes are dealt with on the course:

- criminological theories, current research and contemporary perspectives on crime policy
- victimological perspectives on victimisation
- views on social control, normality and exclusion
- the criminal justice system, societal and social crime prevention measures

Form of teaching

The teaching consists of lectures by Department lecturers, guest lectures from practitioners, external researchers and voluntary organisations, film viewings, student-led seminars and presentations, study visits and literature studies. Some elements of the course are co-taught with two other profile courses (Drug abuse and dependency and Poverty, Income and Housing). The teaching style places emphasis on the joint contribution of students and teachers to the collective learning process, along with individual students'

The student is given the possibility to participate in at least two re-examination opportunities within one year from the start of course. After this, re-examination is offered in line with ordinary exam times.

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 the department and has to be in writing.

In cases where a course has been discontinued or undergone major changes, the student should be guaranteed access to at least three examination opportunities based on the previous course design (this includes the regular examination occasion) during a period of at least one year.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Assessment

Examination formats:

- individual essay
- seminars
- written project work and oral presentation
- film analysis that is presented in groups

The course is assessed through oral presentations and written assignments. Examination takes place in groups as well as individually. All elements of the course require attendance and active student participation, showing that one can present individual arguments and approaches and in that way effectively contribute to a discussion. In case of absence, supplementary course work can be admitted.

Grades

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

In order to pass the course (Pass), the learning outcomes need to have been met and the student must have participated in all compulsory elements. To pass with distinction (Pass with distinction) the student furthermore needs to have proven excellent language skills, exceptional ability to discuss and analyse in writing, as well as independent aptitude in the application of theoretical perspectives in the individual written essay.

Course evaluation

Course evaluation takes place continuously during the course in dialogue with the students, orally at the course final seminar session and through a special course evaluation protocol at the end of the course.