



Department of Psychology and Social Work

Study plan

Social work and social problems

**15 Higher Education Credits
Autumn semester 2018**

SAG030

1. General Practical Information

Welcome to this course entitled, 'Social Work and Social Problems'. This document provides the course guide that you have to read carefully. If, during the course it is necessary to make any amendments to this guide, the changes will be posted on 'Blackboard'. This means that you have to regularly check 'Blackboard' for announcements.

The course coordinator for this course is Komalsingh Rambaree (Ajit) and his contact details are:

- Room Number: 51:214
- Telephone: 026- 648266
- Mobil Phone: 0702226517 (NO CALL AFTER 17.00 AND ON WEEK-ENDS, PLEASE)
- Email: kolsie@hig.se

The course examiner is Stefan Sjöberg.

The lecturers involved in this course are:

Komalsingh Rambaree	kolsie@hig.se
Stefan Sjöberg	Stefan.Sjoberg@hig.se
Sanaya Singh	saasih@hig.se
Brita Backlund Rambaree	Brita.B.Rambaree@hig.se
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Elvi Chang	elvi.chang@hig.se
My Lilja	My.Lilja@hig.se
Päivi Turunen	paivi.turunen@hig.se
Guest Lecturers	Monika Többe Schukalla, Karl-Heinz Martins & Rita Hansjurgens (Catholic University of Applied Sciences – Germany)

The pedagogical methods used in this particular course will vary and includes: group work, lectures, documentary film followed by debates and discussions, brainstorming, articles' review etc.

N.B: Contact the responsible lecturers if you miss any lecture or seminar (See schedule as per section 6).

2. Course Syllabus

- Fundamental theories on social work.
- Social problems in an ideological, ethical, cultural, historical, and sociopolitical context.
- Social work as a contemporary professional field and in a process of historical change.
- Critical thinking about the design of social work and the relationship between theoretical knowledge and the profession.

3. Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Describe theories and theoretical perspectives of significance for social work, as well as discuss these in relation to social problems.
2. Describe and problematise social work at the individual, group and societal levels.
3. Explain and formulate relevant problems and issues relating to social work in a scientific context, and explain how to find answers to these problems and issues.
4. Explain the development of social work and its position in society, as well as the social fields in which social work is carried out.
5. reflect over oneself and who you are in relation to the role of the professional social worker

4. Course Literature

1. Banks, S. & Nøhr, K. (eds.). (2011). *Practising Social Work Ethics Around the World: Cases and Commentaries*. London: Routledge. pages: 296
2. Bettman, J., Jacques, G. & Frost, C. (Eds.). (2013). *International Social Work Practice*. London & New York: Routledge. pages: 288
3. D'Cruz, H. & Jones, M. (2013). *Social Work Research: Ethical and Political Contexts: 2nd ed.* London: Sage . pages: 224
4. Healy, L. M. (2008). *International Social Work: Professional Action in an Independent World*. New York: Oxford University Press. pages: 336
5. Szuchman, L. & Thomlison, B. (2010). *Writing with Style: APA Style for Social Work: 4th ed.* Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole. pages: 208
6. Trevithick, P. (2005). *Social Work Skills. A Practice Handbook: (2nd ed)*. Maidenhead: Open University Press. Available as E-book at the library, University of Gävle. pages: 340

Journal articles

- Hutchings A & Taylor I. (2007) Defining the profession? Exploring an international definition of social work in the China context. *International Journal of Social Welfare*,16: 382–390 (8 pages)
- Jönsson, J. H. (2014). Local Reactions to Global Problems : Undocumented Immigrants and Social Work. *British Journal of Social Work*, 44(1), 35-52. doi: 10.1093/bjsw/bcu042 (17 pages)
- Michailakis D. & Schirmer, W. (2014) Social work and social problems: A contribution from systems theory and constructionism. *International Journal of Social Welfare*, 23 (4): 431–442 : DOI: 10.1111/ijsw.12091 (11 pages)
- Bisman, C. (2004). Social work values: The moral code of the profession. *British Journal of Social Work*, 34, 109-123. (14 pages)
- Chechak, D. (2015). Social work as a value-based profession: Value conflicts and implications for practitioners' self-concepts. *Journal of Social Work Values & Ethics*, 12 (2), 41-48. (7 pages)
- Shelden, K. (2015). Values and ethics. *The Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics*, 12 (2), 21-23 (2 pages)
- Drozek, R. P. (2015). The dignity in multiplicity: Human value as a foundational concept in relational thought. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 25 (4), 431-451. DOI: 10.1080/10481885.2015.1055170 (20 pages)
- Viviers A. and Lombard, A. (2013) The ethics of children's participation: Fundamental to children's rights realization in Africa. *International Social Work*, 56 (1) 7-21 (14 pages)
- Spehar, A., Hinnefors, J. & Bucken-Knapp, G. (2017). Passing the buck: The case of failing multilevel governance and vulnerable EU migrants in Sweden. *Nordic Journal of Migration Research*, Online Advance copy: DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1515/njmr-2017-0010> (10 pages)
- Lyons, K. (2017). Women, Migration and Social Work Affilia: *Journal of Women and Social Work*, 32(2) 243-246. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886109917702086> (4 pages)

Free online Articles

- Burns, T. & Sinfield, S. (2003) Essential study skills: the complete guide to success at university. London: Sage Chapter 5: 'How to organise yourself for independent study' Available from: <http://www.uk.sagepub.com/burnsandsinfield/BURNS%20ch%205.pdf>, (12 pages)
- IFSW & IASSW (2004a). Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principals Adelaide: Available from: <http://www.ifsw.org/en/p38000324.html> , (3 pages)
- IFSW, IASSW & ICSW (2012). The Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development Commitment to Action. <http://cdn.ifsw.org/assets/globalagenda2012.pdf> (6 pages)
- Sheafor B. W and Horejsi S (2006) Techniques and Guidelines for Social Work Practice. Boston, MA: Pearson Education Inc. Chapter VI: Specialized Techniques and Guidelines for Social Work Practice Read Sample Chapter at <http://www.ablongman.com/samplechapter/0205446175.pdf> 69 pages
- Kreitner, R., Kinicki, A., and Cole, N. (2007). Fundamentals of Organizational Behaviour: Key Concepts, Skills and Best Practices. Burr Ridge, ILL: Irwin/McGraw-Hill. Chapter 7: Groups and Teamwork. Read Chapter from <http://higher.ed.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/dl/free/007091091x/79496/KreitnerSmapleCh.pdf>

7. Examination

Learning objectives 1-3, 5: Written group assignment and review of another group assignment at a seminar, as well as individual written assignments.

Learning outcome 4: Oral presentation of an interview with a professional social worker.

You must attend and be involved in all seminars. (This does not apply for those having a medical certificate for ill-health). You will be examined during your seminars. In the seminars, you will be asked to work in groups on some specific tasks (to be posted on

Blackboard by respective lecturers) and make oral presentations and discussions. The assessment will be done as either pass or not pass. If you missed or did not attend/participate in a seminar, you will be given two additional chances/dates where you will have to make your presentation [either individual or in group (with others who have missed seminars)]. If you still do not participate in the additional chances/dates, then you will have to participate in a seminar (similar to the one that you have missed) when the course is being offered next time; and therefore, it is only then that you will have your final grade.

In addition to the group work and presentation, you will also be examined through two individual take-home examinations. The first one will be some short essays (3 short essays for about 500 words - representing 25% of the final assessment). Deadline for posting your examination on Blackboard under Assignment Section will be **Tuesday 09/10/2018** at 17.00 latest. Feedback on the short essay examination will be provided on **Monday 05/11/2018**

The second take-home examination will be a major essay (One essay for about 1500 words - representing 75% of the final assessment). The will be posted at least one week in advance on Blackboard under Assignment Section and the task should be posted by **Friday 09/11/2018** at 17.00 latest.

N.B All tasks should be submitted via safe-assign on Blackboard and not through emails.

The class-based and take-home examinations will be graded according to the EXTS grading scale, A-F. Grades will be awarded upon completion of the course (You have to complete the seminar tasks in order to receive your grade). The following grades are awarded according to the ECTS Grading Scale, where an E represents the minimum requirements for passing:

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|------|--------------|--|
| • A | Excellent | Outstanding performance with only minor errors |
| • B | Very good | Above the average standard but with some errors |
| • C | Good | Generally sound work with a number of notable errors |
| • D | Satisfactory | Fair but with significant shortcomings |
| • E | Sufficient | Performance meets the minimum criteria |
| • Fx | Fail | Some work is required before credit can be awarded |
| • F | Fail | Considerable further work is required |

Students failing to submit their assignment on time will get grade F. Students with grade F in the regular examination will be given two additional possibilities for examinations (re-takes). Students with grade Fx will have to rework and re-submit the same examinations/tasks in which a grade Fx was obtained. Whereas, students with grade F will have to take completely new examination questions/tasks. Students failing all of the three examinations, will be referred to study guidance/support, and will be requested to participate in a new examination on the next course occasion.

Refer to the Schedule for Lectures and Seminars for additional chances for seminars and examinations.

Details on seminars will be posted on Blackboard under Assignment (and announcement) by respective lecturers.

8. Scheduled Lectures and Seminars

<i>Day and Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Content</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Lecturer</i>	<i>Room</i>
Monday 03/09/2018	10.00-12.00	First Meeting with Students & Introduction: Social Work: History and Development	Heally (Part 1, p.3-106) Trevithick	Ajit	51:223
	13.00-16.00	Introduction to Personal and Professional Development		Charlotta	
Tuesday 04/09/2018	10.00-16.00	Introduction to study skills in Social Work	Szuchman & Thomlison	Sanaya	51:219
Thursday 06/09/2018	10.00-16.00	What is social work? General Introduction and Principles, values, ethics & codes of conduct in Social Work	Heally (Part 1, p.3-106)+ Banks & Nohr (Ch. 1) + Hutchings A & Taylor	Ajit & Charlotta	51:223
Monday 10/09/2018	11.45-12.15	Get to know the library hig.se/newstudent		To be Confirmed	Krusenstjerna salen - Library
Tuesday 11/09/2018	13.00-16.00	Social Work Knowledge	Heally (Part 1, p.3-106) + Trevithick (Ch.1-2)	Ajit	51:223
Thursday 13/09/2018	13.00-16.00	Social Problems	Michailakis & Schirmer	Brita	51:223
Tuesday 18/09/2018	13.00-16.00	Social problems and challenges in Germany and Sweden	Banks & Nohr + Trevithick	Stefan & Guest Lecturers from Germany	51:223
Thursday 20/09/2018	10.00-16.00	Seminar 1: Comparative Social Work	Banks & Nøhr	Sanaya	51:223
Tuesday 25/09/2018	13.00-16.00	Social Work and Social Problems in Africa	Banks & Nøhr + Trevithick	Ajit	51:223
Thursday 27/09/2018	13.00-16.00	Welfare Services in some EU countries: Comparative	Banks & Nøhr + Bettman et al.	Päivi	51:223
Tuesday 02/10/2018	13.00-16.00	Youth and Children in Sweden	Bettman et al. (Ch. 2 & 8)	Mattias ?	51:223
Thursday 04/10/2018	10.00-16.00	Seminar 2: Changing Conditions of Social Work in Sweden	Jönsson + Spehar et al. + Lyons	Ajit, Päivi, Stefan, Pia & Elvi	51:223
Tuesday 09/10/2018	To be posted by 17.00 (5 pm)	Short Essays (25% of Total Grade)		Ajit & Elvi	
Thursday 11/10/2018	13.00-16.00	Social Work Skills and Interventions	Trevithick (Ch.2-6)	Ajit	51:223
Tuesday 16/10/2018	13.00-16.00	Substance Abuse	Bettman et al (Ch.9)	My	51:223
Thursday 18/10/2018	13.00-16.00	Seminar 3: Global Agenda for Social Work	IFSW, IASSW & ICSW (2012) + Banks & Nøhr	Elvi	51:223
Friday 19/10/2018	10.00-12.00	Briefing Field Visit and Interview with Social Workers in Gävle	Weiss & Wellbourne (Ch. 8) + Trevithick + Healy	Charlotta	51:223
Monday 22/10- 2018 Friday 26 /10/2018	Field Visit and Interview with Social Workers in Gävle				
Monday 29/10/2018	10.00-16.00	Seminar 4: Presentation on Field Visits			
Wednesday 31/10/2018	13.00-16.00	Seminar 5: Discussion on Selected Readings		Elvi	51:223
Friday 02/11/2018	10.00-16.00	Seminar 6: Personal and Professional Development		Charlotta	51:223
Monday 05/11/2018	9.00-12.00	Missing Presentations 1st Chance Feedback & Discussion on Short Essays Examination + Briefing and Guidance on Essay-based Examination		Elvi	51:219
Friday 09/11/2018	Deadline for Final Examination: Major Essay (75%)			Ajit	
Friday 09/11/2018	9.00-12.00	Missing Seminar Presentation 2nd Chance		Elvi	51:216
Friday 11/01/2019	Re-examination: 1st Chance			Ajit	
Friday 16/03/2019	Re-examination: 2nd Chance			Ajit	