

Welfare Models in the Nordic Region 7.5 credits

Välfärdsmodeller i Norden 7.5 hp

Second cycle

Main field: Health and Lifestyle, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (AIN)

Syllabus is adopted by the Research and Education Board (2024-03-01) and is valid for students admitted for the autumn semester 2024.

Placement in the Academic System

The course is included in Master's Programme (60 credits) in Nordic Welfare. The course is also offered as a single subject course.

Prerequisites and Conditions of Admission

Bachelor's degree in social, behavioural or health sciences. The degree must be equivalent to a Swedish kandidatexamen and must have been awarded from an internationally recognised university. English 6. Exemption of the requirement in Swedish is granted.

Course Objectives

The overall course objective is that the student gains knowledge of the development and ideological foundations of Nordic welfare models, how welfare is organized and institutionalized, the role of civil society and media for welfare, and how resources are allocated by the state. Furthermore, the objective is that students develop knowledge of contemporary welfare institutions' goals and ambitions to promote individuals' health and possibilities to lifestyle choices, based on social inclusion, for example issues of gender, diversity and sustainability. Another objective is that students develop knowledge of societal changes and future challenges that can be identified in a comparative perspective between the Nordic countries and in a global perspective.

Following successful completion of the course the student should:

Knowledge and understanding

- identify main concepts within the area of welfare, health and lifestyles
- describe and explain different theoretical perspectives on welfare models; background and history

Skills and ability

- identify the consequences of societal changes for individuals and groups with focus on health and lifestyles
- describe and discuss, orally and in writing, the relationship between welfare, civil society, health and life-

styles and how they relate to issues like gender, diversity and sustainability

Judgement and approach

- analyze and reflect upon the welfare society's challenges and alternatives of courses of action
- reflect upon and critically evaluate the consequences of the changes of the welfare society in relation to health and lifestyle

Primary Contents

The main focus of the course is the roots and practice and implications of the concept of welfare, specifically the Nordic welfare society. Similarities and differences between the welfare systems in time and location are emphasized and examined by theoretical models concerning conditions for develop welfare, neoliberalism, allocations, media, democracy and social engagement. Furthermore, the course covers issues of consequences of organising welfare in the contemporary society for individuals and groups in terms of health, lifestyles, justice and equality.

The course includes studies of the development of welfare through the four themes: social security nets; the role of working life; media; and civil society and social movements.

Teaching Formats

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars, laboratory work, group exercises, field studies and via the university's learning platform.

Teaching is in English.

Examination

The overall grades of F (Insufficient), E (Sufficient), D (Satisfactory), C (Good), B (Very Good), A (Excellent) will be awarded for the course.

The examination consists of an individual written examination, obligatory film seminar, and group assignment with written and oral presentation at an obligatory seminar.

Name of the test		Grading
Individual Written Examination	5 credits	F/E/D/C/B/A
Film Seminar	1 credits	U/G
Group Assignment	1,5 credits	U/G

If there are special reasons, the examiner may make exceptions from the specified examination format and allow a student to be examined in another way. Special reasons can e.g. be a decision on learning support.

For elite sports students according to Riktlinjer för kom-

inationen studier och elitidrott vid Högskolan i Halmstad, DNR: L 2018/177, the examiner has the right to decide on an adapted examination component or let the student complete the examination in an alternative way.

Course Evaluation

Course evaluation is part of the course. This evaluation should offer guidance in the future development and planning of the course. Course evaluations should be documented and made available to the students.

Course Literature and Other Study Resources

Grunfelder, Julien, Norlen, Gustaf, Randall, Linda & Sanchez Gassen, Nora. *State of the Nordic Region 2020*. Nord 2020:001, Nordic Council of Ministers, 2020.

Hort, Sven E. *Social Policy, welfare state, and civil Society in Sweden*. Vol I & vol 2. Arkiv förlag 2014.

Kamali, Masoud & Jönsson Jessica H. *Neoliberalism, Nordic Welfare States and Social Work. Current and Future Challenges*. Routledge. 2019.

de la Porte, Caroline. "The European Pillar of Social Rights meets the Nordic Model", *European Policy Analysis for the Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies (SIEPS)*, January 2019:2.

Raphael, Dennis. Challenges to promoting health in the modern welfare state: The case of the Nordic nations. *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health*, 42: 7-17, 2014.

Smith, J. *Social Movements for Global Democracy*. Johns Hopkins University Press. 2010.

Syvertsen, Trine, Enli, Gunn, Mjøs, Ole J & Hallvard Moe. *The Media Welfare State: Nordic Media in the Digital Era*. University of Michigan Press, 2014.

Witoszek, Nina & Midttun, Atle. *Sustainable Modernity. The Nordic Model and Beyond*. Routledge, 2018. (Selected chapters. Available at <https://www.routledge.com/Sustainable-Modernity-The-Nordic-Model-andBeyond-1st-Edition/Witoszek-Midttun/p/book/9781138718210>)

Additional literature may be suggested by instructors.