

## **New Challenges for the Welfare Society 7.5 credits**

Nya utmaningar i välfärdssamhället 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 develops knowledge of the contemporary challenges the welfare state is facing, and in relation to health and lifestyles. Furthermore, the course objective is that the student develops specific knowledge and approaches to issues of risks and extra-ordinary events and how various actors and institutions manage these in society. Furthermore, the course objective for the student is to develop understanding of the relationships between individual, group, organization and societal levels in terms of welfare challenges.

Following successful completion of the course the student should:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- describe the conditions, changes and challenges of the welfare society and explain the correlation between the organisation of the welfare society and the role of civil society in the managing of risks and extra-ordinary events
- explain different theoretical perspectives on health and lifestyles in relation to social security and information security concerning questions related to risk and crisis management
- critically describe contemporary discussions in society and various social processes that direct risk perception and the impact for individuals and groups, with special regard to gender and equality

#### *Skills and ability*

- identify, formulate and evaluate problems relevant to risk management and with consequences for individuals' wellbeing within various areas of the welfare systems or the civic society
- present and discuss, oral and written, different actors' management of risks and extra-ordinary events in society

#### *Judgement and approach*

- critically evaluate and reflect upon challenges and possibilities in strategic welfare work in organisations and civil society in the Nordic region
- evaluate and reflect upon the longterm impacts of larger risks and accidents for individuals, groups and society and how the impacts relate to health and lifestyles

### **Primary Contents**

The focus of the course is the various aspects of the challenges and risks facing the welfare society, from the basis of the Nordic welfare systems in relation to health and lifestyles. Furthermore, the focus is on the attention of challenges and risks in the societal debates and how they are managed on individual, group and societal levels by knowledge, resources, information, communication and political decisions. The course has its starting-point in the Nordic conditions in relation to how challenges and risks are intermeshed with global processes, and in the same time managed in local contexts. Theories of risks, risk perception, risk and crisis communication, globalization, and social cohesion are covered in the course.

### **Teaching Formats**

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars, laboratory work, group exercises, and an internet-based platform for communication and teaching.

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 consist of an individual written examination, obligatory literature seminar, and and group assignment with oral presentation at an obligatory seminar.

Name of the test		Grading
Individual Written Examination	5 credits	F/E/D/C/B/A
Literature 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 kombinationen 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.

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## Course Literature and Other Study Resources

Beck, Ulrich. *World at Risk*. Polity Press, 2008.

Breakwell, Glynis M. *The Psychology of Risk*. Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Therborn, Göran. *The Killing Fields of Inequality*. Polity Press, 2013.

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.