

Course Syllabus for **Diacony and Social Policy, 5 credits**

Constitution of the course of studies

This course syllabus was approved by the Board of the Department for Diacony and Theology, Ersta-Sköndal University College on June 7, 2005.

Educational objectives

- to impart an understanding of the social policy framework for diaconic and social work and the conditions governing the establishment and development of this work
- to impart an understanding of the social role of the Church in contemporary society
- to give a basic orientation in Swedish social legislation
- to allow students to complete and analyse a previously begun diaconic inventory

Time demands

The course is part-time (half speed)

Course content

The course begins with a continuation of previous field studies directed at making a diaconic inventory of parish and society. This inventory shall form the basis for a competitive analysis from a social and diaconic perspective. Also treated are social policy issues, judicial aspects, the social responsibility of the Church of Sweden, and voluntary work from a vulnerability perspective. The course provides an overview of current social legislation, in particular legislation related to maintaining professional confidence, with complementary discussion of ethical values and social policy standpoints. Much attention is given to how diaconic work in the fields of social and medical care has contributed to the formation of social welfare policy in the 2000's.

Methods of instruction

Instruction is in the form of lectures, seminars, study visits, and fieldwork.

Attendance

Attendance at lectures and seminars is obligatory. Absence of more than 20 per cent but less than 35 per cent may be compensated for by completion of special assignments. In the event of an absence of 35 per cent or more the student is required to attend missed lectures and/or seminars the next time the course is given.

Examination and grading

The course is examined through casework and presentation of the diaconic inventory report. The grades given are pass with distinction, pass, or fail.

Textbooks

- Alwall, J (1999), "Alla goda krafter – om frivilligt arbete i Svenska kyrkan", *Tro och Tanke* 1999:6
- Bishops' Meeting 2000, *Tystnadsplikt och sekretess i kyrkans arbete*, Uppsala: Church of Sweden
- Engels, C, "Se det som är – diakonal inventering i brytningstid?" Sköndal Institute Occasional Papers 2003
- Jeppsson Grassman, E (2001), *Socialt arbete i församlingens hägn*. Stockholm: Verbum
- Rothstein, B (1994), *Vad bör staten göra?* Stockholm: SNS
- Ståhl, R, "De mest utsatta", Sköndal Institute Occasional Papers 1997

Reference books

- Engels, C, "För en ny tid?" Sköndal Institute Occasional Papers 2002
- Norström, C & Thunved, A (2005), *Nya sociallagarna: med kommentarer, lagar och författningar som de lyder den 1 januari 2005*, Stockholm: Norstedts Juridik
- *Sociala hjälpredan 2005*, Simrishamn: Bokmarknaden/Grafiska förlag