

Syllabus for **Basic Course in the Theory and Practice of Diacony, 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. The course forms part of the Church of Sweden lay welfare worker training carried out by Ersta-Sköndal University College in co-operation with Vårsta Diaconic Centre.

Educational objectives

The purpose of the course is

- to introduce diaconic work as a field of knowledge and praxis
- to teach the history of diacony and clarify the present conditions of diaconic work
- to give basic knowledge of diaconic theology and its biblical foundations

Course content

The first section of the course introduces diaconic work in relation to the history and development of diacony in the parish. Also treated are the theology of diacony, its biblical foundations, and the Church's diaconate. The course includes a period of field studies where students begin a diaconic inventory of parish and society.

Methods of instruction

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

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 by written documentation and the presentation of an assignment where reading matter, study visits and personal analysis are summarized in an applied diaconic work perspective, as well as a further home assignment. The grades given are pass with distinction, pass or fail.

Textbooks

- Blennberger, Hansson & Stål, "Diakoni – teologi, ideologi, praxis." *Tro och tanke* 1999:2
- Kyrkoordningen 1999 (chosen sections)
- Nordstokke, Kjell (2002), *Det dyrbareste mennesket – diakoniens grunnlag og praksis*. Oslo (sold at Vårsta)
- *Tro och tanke* 1994:7 Diakoniatet i världens kyrkor (15 pp., sold at Vårsta)
- Wadensjö, Bengt (1986), *Kyrkans framtids väg – diakoni*. Älvsjö: (sold at Vårsta)
- Wallskär, Helene (red) (1999), *Diakonins perspektiv, en introduktion*. Stockholm: Verbum
- Wallskär, Helene (red) (2000), *Diakoni, Svenska kyrkan och uppgiften*. Västerås:

Other articles may be added to the above.