**Nordic Models of Gender Equality and Welfare**

**Course code:** MEN270  
**Credits:** 10  
**Name:** Nordic Models of Gender Equality and Welfare  
**Language:** English  
**Semester:** Autumn  
**Program:** Nordic Master in Social Work and Welfare  
**Required prerequisite knowledge:** None  
**Recommended prerequisite knowledge:** None

**Introduction:**  
The Nordic countries are recognised as some of the most gender equal countries in the world. This course gives an overview of how the Nordic countries work for gender equality and how this policy area is linked to family policies, work-life policies, social policies and in general the Nordic welfare state regimes. The course will improve the students’ understanding of the historical development of Nordic models for gender equality and welfare, and contribute to a critical assessment of contemporary goals and challenges for gender equality and diversity in the Nordic countries.

**Content and objectives**  
The Nordic countries have extensive welfare states and have developed their politics for equality over several decades. This course outlines how gender equality is a particular policy area that connects to family policies, work-life policies and policies for social distribution. The main objective for the course is to discuss and analyse the organisation of the Nordic welfare states in light of their gender equality policies, and to make visible current goals and challenges to gender equality and diversity, such as highly a gender-differentiated labour market, economic inequalities and gender based violence. Increased immigration, multi-culturalism, a wider range of family arrangements and a broader recognition of different sexual orientations also challenge conventional policies for gender equality. The course focuses on how contemporary societal developments challenge Nordic politicians, researchers and government officials to seek new ways to develop policies based on increased sensitivity to multi-dimensional challenges to equality.

**Learning outcomes**

**Knowledge:**  
- Reflection on Nordic policies for gender equality in general, and knowledge of challenges to gender equality in the Nordic countries in particular.  
- Recognition of the similarities and differences between the Nordic countries  
- Awareness of the historical and political processes of the Nordic models for gender equality and welfare policies.

**Skills:**  
- Describe and critically discuss characteristics of Nordic policies for gender equality and how these policies relate to the Nordic welfare-state model  
- Analyse and describe future challenges to gender equality and diversity  
- Understand and describe how Nordic models of gender equality and welfare have been developed and implemented in the Nordic Countries, and how these policies have impacted on a global scale.  
- Discuss the Nordic approach to gender equality and welfare in a comparative context

**Competences:**  
- To be able to understand and analyse contemporary challenges to gender equality and explain how these are influenced by policy-making.
Apply a gender perspective in professional and educational situations

Study methods
The course consists of weekly sessions. These sessions will include lectures, seminars, group work and individual work.

Coursework requirement
A compulsory, written assignment that is to be handed in individually around mid-term. This assignment will be given a pass/fail grade. Failure to pass this compulsory assignment will disqualify the student from taking the final exam.

Exam
Digital home-exam (5000-6000 words). The exam is a written assignment that runs over the course of 8 days, and is handed in electronically. The home-exam is graded according to the A-F scale.

Literature

The complete list of literature will be made available before the course starts.

Open to:
All students at masters’ level at the University of Stavanger
All exchange students at masters’ level at the University of Stavanger

Overlapping courses: BSS330 Nordic Models for Gender Equality and Welfare (10 credits)
Course assessment: The courses will be assessed every semester by the Consortium
Offered by: Network for Gender Research, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Stavanger
Course coordinator: Ingvil Hellstrand