

Alice Salomon Hochschule (ASH) Berlin · Bachelor Social Work · International Curriculum: Courses offered in English (*winter term 2023/24, last updated on: 10 Oct 2023*)



Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin
University of Applied Sciences

This is an overview of the English-taught courses in the Bachelor Social Work. For more information about module descriptions and further details, please check our homepage at www.ash-berlin.eu/en/ash-international/exchange-at-ash-berlin/studying-at-ash-berlin/.

Course no.	Module	Course title and contents · Hours per week / Type / Length / Exam	Language of instruction	Teacher	ECTS credits	Semester	Requirements
S 13301	Areas, Target Groups and Organisations of Social Work	<p>Workshop I The Psychiatrisation of Psychosocial Crises and the Role of Social Work Psychiatrisation is the process whereby people's reactions to any of a multitude of life problems and crises are diagnosed and treated as illnesses or disorders. This process operates at different levels, ranging from individuals to entire societies. We will critically examine the historical and contemporary role of psychiatry, and the implications of the biomedical model of mental illness, for different areas of social work. Using both written documents and video materials, participants will engage with alternatives to this model in both theory and practice. We will particularly focus on the work of activists and scholars who have themselves been subjected to psychiatrisation. This interactive, co-produced workshop will provide a reflective space in which we can jointly examine different social responses to human crisis. Most importantly, the participants will have the opportunity to find their own standpoints and develop a framework of values for their future work. The workshop takes place on Thursdays from 1 to 3.30 pm. Hours per week: 3 / type of course: workshop / length: 1 term</p>	English	J. Russo	3/4*	1	none
S 23301	Areas, Target Groups and Organisations of Social Work	<p>Workshop II <i>Course description pending</i> Hours per week: 2 / type of course: workshop / length: 1 term</p>	English	M. Apak Kaya	3/4*	2	none
<p>Note: Both S 12301 Workshop I and S 23301 Workshop II belong to the same module. If you attend both courses, you only do one exam (you can choose in which course) and for both courses, there will be 7 ECTS in total.</p>							
S 15101	Society, Health and Social Work	<p>Sociological Foundations of Social Work This seminar introduces students to the discipline of Sociology, to explore social inequality on a global scale. Themes under consideration become more complex as the semester progresses. In the first part, we will examine some core concepts on social inequality used by sociologists. Next, we will explore how social inequality is experienced and maintained by studying various dimensions of inequality and their interactions. This includes unpacking class, race, gender, and ability, as well as how they interact and are experienced in everyday life. In the last part of the course, we delve further into how social structures (institutions, communities, spaces) support or challenge inequality. Some of the topics we will investigate include inequality and COVID 19, sex work, migration, unemployment, and commercial surrogacy. This seminar is student-led and participatory. That means that students take the lead in framing issues and discussions. Students are encouraged to draw from the texts prescribed, their own experiences as well as current events, popular culture, and social media. Leading and participating in discussions is an important aspect of this seminar and will help you get the best out of the course. Hours per week: 3 / type of course: seminar / length: 1 term</p>	English	T. Meer	3/6*	2	none
S 25101	Society, Health and Social Work	<p>Political and socio-political Foundations of Social Work The New Politics of Welfare and the Rise of the Right-Wing Populism The political and sociological literature on populism generally focuses on how and why populism contradicts the main principles of representative democracy and mostly emphasizes the role of populist leaders. Even though these studies give significant insights into understanding the current global crisis of democracy, they mainly ignore the social and political dynamics behind the rise of populism in general and right-wing populism in particular. This course aims to shed light on the new politics of welfare and social question, and its impacts on the rise of right-wing populism both in North and South. It aims to discuss the transformation of the social question, the new welfare politics, and particular welfare policies, promoted by the right-wing populist parties in countries like the USA, Germany, France, Turkey, Hungary, and Brazil. Hours per week: 3 / type of course: seminar / length: 1 term</p>	English	Z. Yilmaz	3/6*	2	none

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Course no.	Module	Course title and contents · Hours per week / Type / Length / Exam	Language of instruction	Teacher	ECTS credits	Semester	Requirements
S 25301	Society, Health and Social Work	<p>Foundations of Social Medicine and Social Psychiatry for Social Work</p> <p>Content The seminar clarifies basic concepts of social medicine and social psychiatry, highlights different explanatory approaches to health and illness, which lead to a comprehensive understanding of the bio-psycho-social model. The aetiology, diagnoses and forms of therapy of mental disorders, addictive disorders and neuropsychiatric diseases are an elementary part of the basic knowledge of health-related social work in all age groups. We will deal with the importance of a helpful therapeutic basic attitude and get to know numerous possibilities of participation for the target groups. Another seminar focus is on social psychiatric, rehabilitative and addiction therapy treatment and care options - a large field of application for social workers. An excursion is being planned.</p> <p>Method The seminar will be held mainly according to the flipped classroom method: all materials will be available on moodle from the beginning, so that the theoretical preparation is done in advance. In the seminar, we actively process this in small group work, in discussion rounds and interactive formats. The linking of theory with concrete social work practice takes place continuously and is deepened and examined in the context of case studies and practical examples.</p> <p>Examinations and participation Graded examinations can be presentations, term papers, podcasts, slidecasts or experimental presentations. For the ungraded certificate of attendance a Petcha Kutcha session takes place at the end of the semester.</p> <p>Hours per week: 3 / type of course: seminar / length: 1 term</p>	English	J. Rehn	3/6*	2	none
<p>Note: The courses S 15101 Foundation of Sociology, S 25101 Political and socio-political Foundations of Social Work and S 25302 Foundation of Social Medicine and Social Psychiatry belong to the same module. If you attend two or all three courses, you only do one exam (you can choose in which course) and for both or all three courses, there will be 9 ECTS (2 courses) or 12 ECTS (3 courses) in total.</p>							
S 31001	Diversity Studies	<p>Racism and Migration</p> <p>Gruppe 8 This seminar provides an opportunity to understand the foundations of racism in relation to migration and to highlight the role of power critical social work in this context.</p> <p>Main content: - Social work critical of racism and sensitive to discrimination. - Human rights-based approaches in practice - Dealing with discriminatory discourses in refugee work</p> <p>The seminar includes literature seminars and practice-oriented workshops during the block week. We will analyze relevant literature and develop practical approaches. Although the focus will be on Germany, there will be space for sharing your experiences in other contexts. The language of the Seminars is mainly English. At the same time, different languages are also welcome in the discussions, and we can together make a concerted effort to find translations. The Seminars are a mixture of weekly sessions (in October and November) and block seminars in the Block Woche.</p> <p>Attendance paper/Teilnahme Leistung: (for students, who do not have/do not want to make an exam in this seminar): Please choose three texts that you have worked on in the seminar and work on them with the corresponding questions. Approx. 1000 characters per paper.</p> <p>Exam/Prüfungsleistung: The exams are possible as one of the following choices: - Presentation with written reflection: Present a topic to the seminar group. (alone approx. 30 minutes, in pairs approx. 60 minutes). Here you can, for example, deepen a topic that was discussed in the seminar a new aspect, or illuminate a different perspective, deal with current discourses, or or pursue a question of your own. After the seminar please hand in a paper of 3-5 pages. - Hausarbeit (written paper): Write up your own thesis/question in 10- 15 pages. - Design of a seminar unit including written reflection. Afterwards please hand in an elaboration of 3-5 pages</p> <p>Hours per week: 2 / type of course: seminar / length: 1 term</p>	English	F. Merkhan	2/3*	3	none
S 31102	Diversity Studies	<p>Gender and Queer Studies</p> <p>Course description pending</p> <p>Hours per week: 2 / type of course: seminar / length: 1 term</p>	English	R. Solis Mecalco	2/3*	3	none

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S 31201	Diversity Studies	<p>Dis_Ability and Ableism</p> <p>Claims of objectivity and of the necessity for sufficient distance between researcher and subject are still deeply inscribed within conventional social sciences. Such claims, however, ignore the fact that we are all part of the realities that we study and theorize about. Disability Studies, in line with other areas of activist scholarship such as Feminist, Black or Queer Studies, disrupt the positivist* approach to social science. This interdisciplinary field enables a paradigm shift** not only in our understanding of disability but also in general knowledge production.</p> <p>In this course we will explore the following topics: emancipatory disability research and the development of the social model of disability; the relationship between disabled people's movements and Disability Studies, or between activism and theory-building; the intersections of ableism[***] with other forms of structural oppression; and disabled people's contributions to policy and legislation, particularly regarding the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006. Most importantly, we will jointly interrogate the meaning of these developments and their implications for theory and practice of social work.</p> <p>The course starts on 12th October and takes place every second Thursday from 5 to 6.30 pm.</p> <p>* The positivist approach entails the restriction of social science to researching only those matters that can be observed, measured, and recorded in the same way as in natural science.</p> <p>**A paradigm shift is a fundamental change in approach or underlying assumptions.</p> <p>*** For more about ableism see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ielmZUxBIq0&ab_channel=BarnardCenterforResearchonWomen</p> <p>Hours per week: 2 / type of course: seminar / length: 1 term</p>	English	J. Russo	1/2*	3	none
<p>Note: The courses S 31001 Racism and Migration, S 31102 Gender and Queer Studies and S 31201 Dis_Ability and Ableism belong to the same module. If you attend two or all three courses, you only do one exam (you can choose in which course) and for both or all three courses, there will be 4/5 ECTS (2 courses) or 6 ECTS (3 courses) in total.</p>							
S 34201	Culture - Aesthetics - Media	<p>Exemplary Introduction in One Field of Cultural, Aesthetic or Media Social Work I</p> <p>Community dance</p> <p>Community dance is dance with a social purpose. Through movement and dance we develop a feeling of belonging to the group and the place. To get to know each other we will start with different dance and body improvisations. Then we carry on with easy to difficult circle, row, alley, line and couple dances from all over the world. This way we expand our repertoire of movements, but at the same time we run the risk of only artificially learning the steps and movements without getting a feeling for the dance. Therefore, in parallel, we will study Gabrielle Roth's 5 Rhythms, a dynamic dance improvisation that allows us to discover and expand our natural repertoire of movements in order to really get in touch with our body and its natural expressions. At the beginning of January, on a workshop day on Saturday, we will take a closer look at Tarantella, a dance from the vibrant folk culture of southern Italy.</p> <p>To receive the certificate of participation for the course, regular attendance and instruction in a simple dance as a warm-up is required.</p> <p>As an exam, you have the opportunity to study a selected dance in more detail theoretically and practically and to teach the dance to other students. There is also the option to write a paper about a specific dance or dance form or dancer.</p> <p>Hours per week: 2 / type of course: seminar / length: 1 term</p>	English	B. Hägele	3/4*	3	none
S 44301	Culture - Aesthetics - Media	<p>Exemplary Introduction in One Field of Cultural, Aesthetic or Media Social Work II</p> <p>Images of and filming in urban spaces - A practical and theoretical approach to filmmaking in the metropolis</p> <p>In this seminar we will now – in the second term but probably the first term for Erasmus students – focus on practical filmmaking and photography in the area of Hellersdorf/ Marzahn – with one excursion – at the start of the term – to Kreuzberg and the public art/ cultural social work projects there.</p> <p>You will get a short introduction into filmmaking and editing as well as photography and we will work on your footage every time we meet and then also regularly screen your films as a pre-film for three public screenings in the winter term in Hellersdorf at the university and also in the „classroom of the future“ at Cottbusser Platz – one station from Hellersdorf.</p> <p>Besides the opportunity to stroll the city and especially the district of Hellersdorf with a camera, there will also be the chance to write a script for a documentary/ fiction film and realize it in a group. We will meet in our first session of the winter term and see who is interested in what and then form groups accordingly.</p> <p>We will only work in the facilities of the media lab (where you are invited to use the video and photo cameras and editing computers) or go on excursions in Kreuzberg/ Hellersdorf.</p> <p>Your films serve as exams for this seminar.</p> <p>Hours per week: 2 / type of course: seminar / length: 1 term</p>	English	A. Plöger	3/4*	4	none
<p>Note: Both S 34201 and S 44301 belong to the same module. If you attend both courses, you only do one exam (you can choose in which course) and for both courses, there will be 7 ECTS in total. Please also note that this exam will not be graded.</p>							

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S 45201	International Social Work, Social Economics and Social Management in Social Work	<p>International Social Work Brazilian Forum Theater Technique for Social Workers - Brasilianisches Forum Theater Technik für Sozialarbeiter</p> <p>Forum Theatre (also known as Boal's Theatre, 'Theatre of the Oppressed' or 'Theatre for Development') is an interactive theatre form invented in the early 1970s by Augusto Boal. Boal's aim was to help audience members identify their "internal oppressions" in order to begin to overcome them.</p> <p>The audience is shown a short play in which a central character (protagonist) encounters a form of oppression or obstacle that s/he is unable to overcome. The subject matter will usually be something of immediate importance to the audience, often based on a shared life experience. In the UK, Forum Theatre has been used to tackle issues like family relationships, homelessness, employment and health. When the play has been performed, members of the audience can take to the stage and suggest alternative options for how the protagonist could have acted. In this way, the event can be used to rehearse for an imminent occasion or to uncover and analyse alternatives in any situation, past, present or future. The actors explore the results of these choices with the audience, creating a kind of theatrical debate in which experiences and ideas are rehearsed and shared, generating both solidarity and a sense of empowerment. Forum Theatre uses theatre to achieve social aims. It is a form of theatre that encourages audience interaction and explores different options for dealing with a problem or issue. Forum Theatre is often used by socially excluded and disempowered groups. Forum theatre can be a powerful method to engage social workers and their clients and give them agency to react to the problems that affect them and find solutions together. Instead of being passive subjects, trying different roles using drama in education techniques, they can gain a deeper understanding of diverse issues and possible solutions.</p> <p>Hours per week: 2 / type of course: seminar / length: 1 term</p>	English	M. Apak	2/5*	4	Students must have completed at least 60 ECTS in social work or a related study area.
S 45301	International Social Work, Social Economics and Social Management in Social Work	<p>Foundations of Social Economics and Social Management Introduction to Social Economics and Social Management: Diverse Economies</p> <p>In this course, we will explore a number of different perspectives that bring together concerns around economic and social justice, ecological sustainability, resilience and economic democracy with the aim of community economic empowerment. We will develop a theoretically grounded understanding of the economic diversity that exists today, based on the multiplicity of economic, logics, practices, sites and subjects around us</p> <p>Hours per week: 2 / type of course: seminar / length: 1 term</p>	English	E. Erdem	2/5*	4	Students must have completed at least 60 ECTS in social work or a related study area.
<p>Note: Both S 45201 and S 45301 belong to the same module. If you attend both courses, you only do one exam (you can choose in which course) and for both courses, there will be 7 ECTS in total.</p>							
S 62201	Social Work Theories and Methods	<p>Methods of Social Work Practice or Reconstructive-qualitative Methods of Research I: Methods of Social Work Practice I</p> <p>This seminar focuses on theories and methods of social work practice and the role of critical reflection. Building on students' practice experiences and interests developed in previous classes, theoretical and practical approaches will be introduced, discussed and applied in exercises, case examples etc. The seminar combines self-study, reading, and critical analysis of texts and case descriptions, small group and full class discussions, as well as experiential approaches to learning always seeking multiple perspectives.</p> <p>Hours per week: 3 / type of course: seminar / length: 1 term</p>	English	U. Walter	3/4*	6	Students must have completed at least 60 ECTS in social work or a related study area. Further restrictions explained in course and ECTS manual for exchange students.
S 72201	Social Work Theories and Methods	<p>Methods of Social Work Practice or Reconstructive-qualitative Methods of Research II: Methods of Social Work Practice II</p> <p>This seminar continues from the 6th Semester and focuses on theories and methods of social work practice and the role of critical reflection. Building on students' practice experiences and interests developed in previous classes, theoretical and practical approaches will be discussed and applied in exercises, case examples etc. The seminar combines self-study, reading, case analyses and critical analysis of texts in small group and full class discussions, as well as experiential approaches to learning always seeking multiple perspectives.</p> <p>Hours per week: 3 / type of course: seminar / length: 1 term</p>	English	U. Walter	3/4*	7	Students must have completed at least 60 ECTS in social work or a related study area. Further restrictions explained in course and ECTS manual for exchange students.
<p>Note: Both S 62201 Methods of Social Work Practice I and S 72201 Methods of Social Work Practice II belong to the same module. If you attend both courses, you only do one exam (you can choose in which course) and for both courses, there will be 7 ECTS in</p>							

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W 004	Elective course	<p>La crisis multiple desde la perspectiva del sur global</p> <p>Contenidos: La situación actual puede describirse como una sumatoria de diversas de crisis. En esta situación, es necesario adoptar diferentes perspectivas que permitan reflexionar y discutir sobre los procesos actuales y sus efectos a nivel de la sociedad, así como sus implicaciones para la práctica del trabajo social. Desde el llamado Sur Global, especialmente desde América Latina, se han desarrollado en el pasado respuestas a las crisis que tienen un marcado carácter emancipatorio. Las diversas luchas y formas de organización social han alcanzado en los últimos años una masividad y profundidad que también son ejemplares para otras regiones del mundo. El movimiento feminista por el derecho al aborto y las luchas en distintas regiones de América Latina contra los efectos de la crisis climática son ejemplos destacados de ello. Estos procesos de contestación sobre quién debe asumir los costes de las distintas crisis han influido fuertemente en la configuración de la política social, especialmente en Sudamérica. La política social actual es en gran medida el resultado de luchas colectivas. El papel del trabajador social en este contexto es cuestionado y se debate si debe participar y acompañar estos procesos colectivos o si debe actuar como un escollo disciplinario, ofreciendo soluciones sólo a nivel individual. El análisis de estas experiencias colectivas y en ese contexto el rol del trabajador social seran los ejes centrales del seminario.</p> <p>Metodología: El seminario está dirigido a estudiantes de grado de trabajo social que tengan conocimientos de español. Ya que el seminario implica como metodo de aprendizaje el intercambio de saberes entre estudiantes y actores del campo social de America Latina y el Caribe.</p> <p>Hours per week: 2 / type of course: seminar / length: 1 term</p>	Spanish	P. Maether	2/3*		none
W 010	Elective course	<p>Undoing Gender: and other conditions that make life unlivable</p> <p>Aims 1) To see all human struggles as inherently intersectional, and intersectoral and connect this to the need for devising interdisciplinary approaches. 2) To develop critical and historical insights into conditions that shape social stratification and identity formation. 3) To understand social work's limitations and transformative potential in a neoliberal world order.</p> <p>Seminar Description/Contents: The seminar uses various media generated by queer, trans, and feminist thinkers- often from racialized backgrounds to argue for a broader understanding of gender in politics. Let us suppose, that in a Utopic society, we would not care for what Gender is assigned to a person, who desires whom, or grade them based on their ability, physical attributes, or capacity to reproduce- but would people have enough food to eat in this society? Would they have access to land and dignified jobs? The list of such questions is endless because we inherit a world that is deeply unequal. It is not enough for mere gender to go away or transform to better the human condition. Instead, frameworks such as intersectionality can be foundational in positing that gender and all conditions that enforce it and vice versa must go. This can be a bleak prospect for workers who are just beginning to address gender and other factors that reify it at work. To remedy it, the seminar draws upon works that seek to rescue joy for such work/lives, invert power, subvert expectations, or use them to benefit as a strategy to bring transformations in their own ways in contexts that are pre-decided for us .</p> <p>Requirements: Anyone who is interested in gender. The seminar provides a basic introduction to the gendered understanding of various social identities that are subject to social work and by extension our own gendered-social selves as social workers.</p> <p>Didactics:The seminar's discursive classroom is crucial to its delivery. It encourages a deeper, more personalized understanding of gender- that not only looks at it as a social and analytical category but also serves as a place for reflecting on the journeys social workers take vis a vis their own gendered interactions and positionalities. The discursive element also facilitates horizontal learning around social identities and structural privileges, given that academia tends to exacerbate these in classroom settings. The final presentation can be submitted in multiple formats to be more inclusive of neurodiverse needs. Students also have the option to choose their own resources that they find resonant for the assessments that are discussed prior with the instructor.</p> <p>Examination (ungraded): Prescribed word limit for seminar paper submission – not more than 3000 words could take the form of a critical film or book review an argumentative essay or a presentation (could take forms of digital essay, spoken word performance, or viva voce - to be decided between the instructor and students).</p> <p>Hours per week: 2 / type of course: seminar / length: 1 term</p>	English	A. Akunth	2/3*		none

Note: Both W 004 and W 010 belong to the same module. If you attend both courses, you only do one exam (you can choose in which course) and for both courses, there will be 5 ECTS in total. Please also note that this exam will not be graded.