

**Seattle University**  
College of Education  
Student Development Administration Program

COLLEGE ORGANIZING THEME: Preparing ethical and reflective professionals for quality service in diverse communities.
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**Syllabus**

**SDAD 584: *Comparative Educational & Social Policy*(3 credits)**

Summer 2011

Seattle Instructor:

Jeremy Stringer, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: By Appointment

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The instructor will also have a Swedish cell phone and will provide the number at the first meeting of the class in Sweden.

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Uppsala Instructor:

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Course Rationale

This course is designed for students who wish to increase their insights into how another country and world region approach educational and social policy. It is intended to provide a close-up view of Sweden's educational, political and social structures. Students will be encouraged to think deeply about Sweden's approaches and to compare them with those in the United States.

The course will require students to apply their skills of analysis and evaluation. Students in the course will sharpen their abilities to critique how institutional structures vary across cultures and what the benefits and deficits of alternative approaches might be.

Registration for the course is open only to graduate students at Seattle University. There are no prerequisites.

Course Description

This course considers different ways of organizing the state's response to social problems. The Scandinavian Social Democratic model is compared with the liberal American model. The course examines the reasons that some states become welfare states and others evidence much less interest in developing public solutions to problems in social welfare. The course further considers how the welfare model may be affected by the European Union and the future of this model over the long term.

The summer of 2011 has a special emphasis on higher education in Sweden. A number of study visits are incorporated in to the course, including the National Agency for Higher Education, and several student services at Uppsala University.

Required Reading

Book:

Einhorn, E.S., & Logue, J. (2003). *Modern welfare states: Scandinavian politics and policy in the global age* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Westport, CT: Praeger.

Course Instructional Methods

The instructional methods, strategies and techniques to be utilized in this course include field trips to Swedish institutions and discussions with successful practitioners, lectures by Swedish experts, class discussion, readings, use of a virtual classroom, and self-reflection.

Course Goals

To provide a hands-on, international experience highlighting the Swedish approach to educational and social issues.

To demonstrate how Swedish graduate education varies from that in the United States.

To encourage students to apply their skills of analysis and evaluation.

Course Requirements

*Reading:*

Students are expected to come to class on August 22 having read the book, *Modern welfare states: Scandinavian politics and policy in the global age*. Faculty in Sweden will expect that the book has been read in advance. The book provides background for class sessions in Sweden and should be referenced in the culminating paper for the course.

*Class Participation:*

Class attendance and participation are crucial to a successful class. Students are expected to prepare for class in advance, reflect on any assigned material, and come to class prepared to contribute actively to class discussions.

Attendance is required at all class sessions in Sweden.

This class is closely scheduled and involves faculty and professionals at several Swedish institutions who are donating their time to us. For this reason, and as a professional courtesy to all, it is essential that all students be **on time** to all class sessions. We will normally be unable to wait for students who are late. Students who arrive at any meeting place after the group has departed will be expected to arrange for their own way to field trip sites.

*Field Trips:*

There are several field trips (study visits) planned for the course. The field trips are an opportunity to learn from outstanding professionals at several Swedish institutions. We are currently planning to visit Uppsala University, Drivhuset (student service that helps students start businesses), the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education, and the Vasamuseum. This schedule is subject to modification.

All students are required to attend all field trips. *Guests of class members* may not attend regular classes, but are welcome to join the group for the trip to the Vasamuseum, the celebration dinner on August 26, and the reunion dinner in Seattle.

Guests are also welcome to participate in the class exercise conducted during the opening weekend.

*Angel Site:*

There is an Angel site for the course and all students have access to it. Content is posted under the “Lessons” tab. Content includes the course syllabus, links to the web sites for places we will visit while in Sweden, and online discussion forums.

There are two discussion forums started under the “Lessons” tab on the Angel site. The first forum may be used by students to post their reflections about any aspect of the course. When posting your reflections here, please keep in mind that all electronic reflections are confidential within our class, and must not be sent to other people without permission from the author.

The second forum is available for students to post travel information of interest to the class. You might post bargains you have found, tourist attractions not to be missed, restaurants you recommend, and any other travel information you would like to share.

*Term Papers:*

The term papers give students the opportunity to review a topic of interest to them in greater depth. Students may produce either a traditional scholarly paper or a persuasive essay. Students who choose the **scholarly paper** should compare and contrast one or more aspects of Swedish educational or social institutions with their counterparts in the United States. References to the Einhorn and Logue book should be incorporated into the paper. *Scholarly papers should be produced according to APA format.*

Students who choose a **persuasive essay** should choose an aspect of Swedish educational or social policy about which they are passionate and attempt to persuade the reader why this policy would be important to consider implementing in the United States. References to the Einhorn and Logue book should be incorporated into the essay. *Persuasive essays do not need to be produced in APA format, except for the reference page.*

The term papers should be approximately eight pages in length, not counting the title page, abstract, and references. Students must submit their term papers in the Angel classroom no later than September 9, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

The term papers should be the basis of brief presentations students make at the reunion dinner. The purpose of the presentations is to share students' scholarship and passion with the rest of the class and the guests who are with us.

*Reunion Dinner:*

All students in the course and their guests are invited to a reunion dinner at the instructor's home in September. Driving instructions will be posted on the Angel site. Those who can are encouraged to carpool.

*Grading:*

Grading for the class will be determined according to the criteria below:

A= On-time attendance and active participation in all classes and field trips; and all assignments, including term paper, completed according to the guidelines and submitted on time

B= Written assignments not submitted on time, or not according to the guidelines; or unexcused absence from field trip

C= Persistent tardiness and/or unexcused absences from class, or term paper one week or more late

*Late Work:*

Written work will not be accepted late.

### Instructor Judgment in Grading

Passive attendance, persistent tardiness, lack of adequate preparation and/or lack of verbal contributions to entire class discussions on a regular basis may result in the lowering of your course grade by the instructor. Instructor judgment will prevail in all borderline grading decisions.

### Grading Grievance - Procedure for Challenging Course Grades

The grade grievance policy and procedure defines the policies and outlines the processes that govern in those cases when a student wishes to grieve a final course grade.

A copy of this grading grievance policy and procedure document can be found at the following URL: <http://www.seattleu.edu/registrar/page.aspx?ID=194>

### Academic Integrity

As this course is part of a curriculum that prepares people to become professional educators, academic honesty is a sacred value. Consequently, students who violate the university's academic honesty policy (including plagiarism) will be subject to a failing grade in this course. Students in the SDA master's program may also be placed on probation or dismissed from the master's program. You may download a copy of the policy from the 2010-2011 Student Handbook, found at the following URL: <http://www.seattleu.edu/studentdevelopment/inner.aspx?id=11458>.

### Fair Process Policy

The purpose of this policy is to define the appeal policies and processes related to the following decisions: retaining or graduating a student; permitting a student to enter or continue in a practicum, an internship, or student teaching; or recommending a student for a professional certificate. A copy of the fair process policy can be found in the ***SDA Student Handbook***.

### Students with Disabilities:

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an "invisible disability" such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged to discuss your needs and arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services, Loyola 100, (206) 296-5740.

Tentative Schedule 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of August

SUNDAY 21 August			
Exercise (Swedish Health Care System or European Monetary Union)			
MONDAY 22 August			
<b>10.00-11.30</b>		<b>13.30-17.00</b>	
Introduction with Sven-Erik Svärd and exercise seminar	LUNCH	Visit to <i>Drivhuset</i> (a non-profit foundation helping students to become entrepreneurs) Visit to Student Nation.	
TUESDAY 23 August			
<b>9.30 -11.30</b>		<b>13.30-17.00</b>	
Guided tour of Uppsala University (Assembly outside the Cathedral 10.00)	LUNCH	Seminar on the Swedish educational system Summing up with Dr. Stringer	
WEDNESDAY 24 August			
<b>9.00 – 11.30</b>		<b>13.30 – 15.00</b>	<b>15.30-17.30</b>
Seminar on gender politics in Sweden.	LUNCH	Seminar on international exchange programs at Uppsala University.	Seminar on the election of University presidents in Sweden.  Meeting with Dr. Stringer
THURSDAY 25 August (Stockholm)			
<b>10.00-12.00</b>		<b>14.30 – 15.30</b>	<b>16.15 – 17.15</b>
Visit to the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education.	LUNCH	Visit to <i>Europahuset</i> (European Commission in Sweden)	Visit to the Vasa Museum ( <a href="http://www.vasamuseet.se/en/">http://www.vasamuseet.se/en/</a> )
FRIDAY 26 August			
<b>10.15-11.45</b>		<b>13.30-14.30</b>	<b>15.00-16.15</b>
Seminar on student career counseling and university fees at Uppsala university.	LUNCH	Seminar on admission to Swedish universities.	Final summing up