CURRICULUM PLAN
SOCIAL WORK FROM AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE – 5 ECTS

Name course	Social Work from an International Perspective
Responsible	Higher Education Institutions, partners in the the SW-VirCamp Consortium. The leading institution coordinates the course: Complutense University Faculty of Social Work Madrid - Spain Each of the SW-VirCamp partner institutions sending applicants to the course has a local contact person responsible for the intake procedure and accreditation of the ECTS credits. For more information go to www.vircamp.net
Language	English
Period	19/09/2022– 11/11/2022
Credits and level	5 ECTS European qualification structure: level 6
Introduction	Social Work from an international perspective is an online course that allows social work students in various countries to learn from each other and to share information and knowledge about social work. Rapid changes in contemporary societies, increasing mobility and local differences in social and economic factors influence the living conditions and thereby the social problems in various parts of the world. This has serious implications for the field of social work and for the framework and the role of social workers, which emphasises the importance for intercultural exchange. An international perspective on Social Work is significant for social workers directly involved with clients from different countries and for bachelor and postgraduate students who are considering an international perspective in their future career.
Learning Outcomes	**Knowledge** • The student has knowledge about comparative methods • The student has knowledge about a useful method for reflection on learning • The students has knowledge about the APA 6 system for academic writing • The student has knowledge about the function, methods and services within the field of social work in their own and other countries • The student can describe social welfare models in different countries • The student knows about sources where to find sources of information on social exclusion in an international context • The student has knowledge about the relation between the social welfare models and the daily work of the social worker

	• The student knows how to analyse commonalities and differences of social work, social policy and welfare systems **<u>Skills</u>** • The student can identify challenges connected to social work • The student can search for and find data about commonalities and differences related to social work issues in an international context • The student can use comparative methods to analyse data and identify commonalities and differences related to the legal and social policy frameworks for international social work • The student can present the analysis according to academic criteria • The student can reflect properly upon his/her own learning process during the course **<u>General Competences</u>** • The student can cooperate respectfully with fellow students • The student can consider the intercultural differences that may influence the group processes during the course • The student can relate his/her reflection on learning to his/her professional development
Content	In this course, the students will learn about commonalities and differences between countries in the field of social work and how these contextualise and influence living conditions. The students will explore social organisations, welfare systems and methods within social work. Throughout the course, students will cooperate on cases that illustrate the phenomenon of social exclusion . Students are assigned to work with challenges related to social work with elderly people, adults or children and to compare the living conditions with two other countries than their own. During the course, the students take part in various activities in a virtual classroom together with students from different countries. These activities aim to enhance the students' communication skills and give a unique experience of working with students from different countries.
Admission Requirements	• social work student, second year bachelor or higher • adequate level of oral and written English language skills; minimally level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. • reliable internet connection.

| Learning and teaching approach | **Learning approach**

This course is designed according to the principles of e-learning. Throughout the course, students work **online, on the Canvas LMS.**

By means of **video lectures** (both recordings and scripts), students will acquire **knowledge** about comparative methods, social welfare models, academic writing and reflection on learning.

An extended **literature list**, will guide towards useful sources of information about social exclusion.

Individual, written assignments, will train student's **ability** to identify challenges connected to social work and social exclusion, to search and find relevant data, to use a comparative method to compare data and to present these data in an academic text.

In **blog entries**, the students will reflect on their learning process and to relate this to their professional development.

By means of **group work (video calls, written discussions)**, students will acquire **knowledge** about the functions, methods and services within social work in their own and other countries. They will train their ability to cooperate respectfully with other students and to consider cultural differences within the group.

The use of an **assignment portfolio** allows full transparency regarding assignments and feedback from teachers. Students can enter each other's portfolios and hence learn from each other.

Students have to enter the classroom at least two times a week and they are supposed to work for 12 to 15 hours/week.

Teaching approach

During **group conferences** (video calls), teachers will guide students in getting to know the LMS and in completing their assignments. They will supervise the group processes.

Students that deliver their assignment on time will get **written feedback.** This will help students to improve their assignments. |

Examination	The examination in this course exists of course requirements and two written assignments.
	
	<u>Course Requirements</u>
	
	Before students can deliver their exam, they need to deliver the required individual assignments
	
	• Student's work plan
	• Student's presentation
	  Video 2 – 3 minutes
	• Create a table of comparison
	  Template table
	• Prepare the conference
	  Watching a video
	  Paper: 500 words (+/- 10%)
	• Poverty as phenomenon in your country
	  Paper: 1.000 words +- 10%)
	• Comparative paper
	  Paper: 1.500 words (+/- 10%)
	• Reflection
	  Three blog entries in week 2,4 and 6
	
	<u>Exam</u>
	
	The **exam** consists of two assignments
	
	• Comparative paper on social work, based on assignment 6 and an additional chapter base upon the group conference
	  Paper: 2.500 words (+/- 10%)
	• A reflection on the learning process.
	  1.000 words (+/- 10%)
	
	Final marks from A+ / Fx
	
	<u>Re-examination</u>
	The deadline for the re-examination will be 28/05/2021. Students need to fulfill the course requirements and have to deliver an the exam assignments.

Literature	**Welfare Systems** Castles, F.C./Leibfried, S./Lewi S, J./Obinger, H./Pierson, C. (eds.) (2010). *The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State*. Oxford University Press. Oxford. **Social Work / Social Work Education / Profession** Horst, J. T. (ed.) (2009) *Social Work in Europe*. HBuitgevers, Baarn Larsen, A.K. & Hole, G.O. (2007) The Role of the Virtual Classroom in Opening Up the European Curriculum, in Frost, E., Freitas, J.F. & Campanini, A. (eds) *Social Work Education in Europe,* Roma: Carocci. (pp 73-88) Lyons, K.; Hokestad T.; Pawar, M.; Huegler, N. & Hall, N. (2012) *Handbook of international Social Work*, Los Angeles, Ca: Sage Publication.

	Otte, C. & Olsson, K-G. (2007) Professionalism in Social Work and the Education of Social Workers: A Cross-Cultural Perspective, In Frost, E., Freitas, J.F. & Campanini, A. (eds.) *Social Work Education in Europe* Roma: Carocci. (pp 89 - 101)
	Payne, M. 2014. Modern social work theory. 4th ed. Oxford University Press. (pp. 3-29)
	Comparative Methods Horst, J. T., Zierer, B. (2009). The Need for an International and Comparative Social Work Perspective. In: Ter Horst, J. (ed.). *Social Work in Europe*. HBuitgevers, Baarn. (pp.10-16)
	Additional readings will be presented when the course starts.