

DISCRIMINATION IN THE WELFARE STATE

FÉL 099F

Spring 2019

Meetings: Mondays 13:20-15:40

Location: Oddi-201

Supervisory teacher: Sigrún Ólafsdóttir

Office: O-327

Phone: 525-4698

E-mail: sigruno@hi.is

Office hours: by appointment

Other instructors:

Kjartan Páll Sveinsson, Instructor of Sociology, kps@hi.is

Jón Gunnar Bernburg, Professor of Sociology, bernburg@hi.is

Stefan Hardonk, Assistant professor of Disability Studies, hardonk@hi.is

Stefán Hrafn Jónsson, Professor of Sociology, shj@hi.is

Stefán Ólafsson, Professor of Sociology, olafsson@hi.is

COURSE DESCRIPTION

One of the main characteristics of the Nordic welfare countries are conscious attempts to reduce discrimination, inequality and poverty. Originally this focused mainly on classes and economic possibilities but later also included gender issues and then sexual orientation and disability. Migration from other countries has added yet another dimension. In this course we will discuss the ideology behind the use of governmental power to reduce inequality and discrimination. We will discuss these attempts within different spheres and the situation of Iceland in international comparison. We will also address the question if it is possible to talk about a Nordic welfare model and in what way Iceland can be said to be a part of that model and in what ways it perhaps differ. The main teaching method will be lectures and informal discussions and student are expected to read the material of each week before the lecture and participate actively in class discussions.

At the end of the course students are expected to:

- Have read key studies on discrimination and development towards equality in Iceland
- Understand the role of key actors in that development
- Have grasped key concepts in the area
- Understand the ideology underpinning the development

READINGS

Articles provided by each instructor, all available on Uglu.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course grades will be determined by the following:

10%	Class participation
10%	Reading reflections
40%	Essay
40%	Written Exam

Class participation

Students are expected to come prepared to discuss the material in class and it is therefore **essential** that readings are done before each class. While variation in participation is expected throughout the semester, it is required that students participate in class discussion in an engaged and informed way.

Reading reflections

Students are required to hand in reflection on the readings on **three** occasions. Students can select the weeks when they turn in their reflection. The reflections are due **at noon on the day before the class they are focused on** and all reflections are due in folders on Ugly. The reflection should be based on your original thinking of the material, and can for example focus on something you found particularly important or interesting; questions that came to mind as you were reading the material; how it relates to your own research; or your thoughts on the questions raised by the discussion leaders for the week. Simply summarizing some of the readings is not acceptable. These reflections are expected to be 2-3 pages each time.

Essay

Due date: April 1

An essay on a subject of your choice discussing one (or more) of the issues of the course. The supervisory teacher (Sigrún) will set up appointments with all students in the week of February 11th to discuss your topic and your ideas. The essay should be approximately 15 pages with double spacing. Instructions will be given in class and on Ugly on February 4th. Students are required to hand in a draft of the essay on March 4th.

Written Exam

Schedule during the exam period, April 24-May 10

The written exam will consist of 8 essay questions covering the various topics from the class. Students will select 4 questions to answer, each worth 25%.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The University of Iceland rule number 569/2009 states: "Students are completely forbidden from using the ideas of others in assignments and papers, unless using citation according to accepted academic standards." This is true both for direct quotations or rewording of a text and independent of where the material comes from (including the internet). Students should be careful to distinguish between their own writing and the writing of others. If plagiarism is suspected (including your own previous assignment) the Chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Folklore will be notified and then the Dean of Social Sciences who will make a decision about the consequences, including a warning or suspension from the university.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

<i>January 7</i>	INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE
Readings:	NONE
Instructor:	Sigrún Ólafsdóttir
<i>January 14</i>	INTRODUCING CLASS BASED INEQUALITY
Readings:	Broddason and Webb Korpi and Palme Oddsson
Instructor:	Kjartan Páll Sveinsson
<i>January 21</i>	ICELAND IN THE NORDIC MODEL: INCOME INEQUALITY AND WELFARE
Readings:	Alestalo et al. Olafsson
Instructor:	Stefán Ólafsson
<i>January 28</i>	PROTESTING INEQUALITIES
Readings:	TBA
Instructor:	Jón Gunnar Bernburg
<i>February 4</i>	GENDER
Readings:	Johannsdottir and Gislason Rudolfsdottir and Johannsdottir Thorvaldsdottir
Instructor:	Sigrún Ólafsdóttir
*Instructions for the essay provided in class and on Uglu	
<i>February 11</i>	FAMILY
Readings:	Gislason Ingolfsson and Gislason Simonardottir
Instructor:	Sigrún Ólafsdóttir
<i>February 18</i>	SEXUALITIES
Readings:	Kjaran Kjaran and Lehtonen Traustadottir and Kristinsson
Instructor:	Sigrún Ólafsdóttir
<i>February 25</i>	PROJECT WEEK

March 4 **DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES AND INEQUALITY**
Readings: TBA
Instructor: Stefán Hrafn Jónsson
***Draft of essay due on Uglya**

March 11 **SOCIAL STATUS OF IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**
Readings: TBA
Instructor: Stefán Hrafn Jónsson

March 18 **DISABILITY**
Readings: Barnes
 Jammaers, Zanoni and Hardonk
Additional: Hartnett et al.
Instructor: Stefan Hardonk

March 25 **TBA**
Readings: TBA
Instructor: Stefán Ólafsson

April 1 **TBA**
Readings: TBA
Instructor: Stefán Ólafsson