

**Examination:  
SOS2603 - The Scandinavian welfare society - contemporary  
perspectives**

**December 8th, 2011  
(6 hours)**

No exam aids, except for dictionaries that have been approved beforehand to the Department of Sociology and Human Geography, are permitted.

Results will be posted on “Studentweb” on January 6<sup>th</sup>, at 3 pm.

This examination consists of **3 pages**, including this page.

The candidate must submit both the original and copy of their answers to the examination.

**NB!** Make sure the copy is legible.

The results are considered official upon publication (see above), and students are responsible for checking their result at this time.

**Remember to note down your examination number (kandidatnummer)** so that you have it when you check your result.

**You must answer both question 1 and question 2. In question 2 you will answer either assignment 2A or 2B. Question 1 counts for 1/3 of the final grade, and assignment 2 for 2/3 of the final grade.**

## **Question 1**

**Briefly address 3 of the 4 following topics/questions:**

- 1) Present the structure of the Norwegian collective agreements
- 2) How does Norway compare to other European countries with regard to wage differences between men and women? How can Norway's position in this respect be explained
- 3) Explain the concepts of integration, assimilation, and multicultural society.
- 4) Evaluate increased labor migration as a remedy for problems associated with ageing populations.

## **Question 2**

**Answer either assignment 2A or 2B:**

### **2A: Fertility across Europe**

Briefly describe variation in fertility levels and family patterns across Europe. Discuss how fertility levels can be shaped by the social, cultural and economic factors.

**or**

### **2B: Labour relations in Norway**

In *Labour Relations in Norway* Stokke and Løken emphasise the following feature of the Norwegian welfare and labour market model:

- “Universal” welfare state, tax based welfare benefits
- Large public sector
- High employment – among both women and men
- Small wage differences
- Strong collective actors (both unions and employer organizations)
- Both centrally coordinated wage bargaining and local bargaining at company level

- Close cooperation between government and organizations (tripartite collaboration)
- High and stable level of trade union density
- High level of state (and municipal) ownership (1/3 of Oslo stock exchange)
- High level of individual and representative participation
- Strong co-determination and workers' participation at company level

I. The Norwegian labour market has been labelled as 'segregated by gender'. Use one or more of the features above to explain and discuss this label.

II. 'The Norwegian employee has some of the strongest individual and collective rights in the world'. Use one or more of the features above to defend and explain this statement.

**In 2B you must answer both assignment I and II.**

**GOOD LUCK!**