Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Study programmes board, Faculty of Science on 2013-03-21 to be valid from 2013-03-22, autumn semester 2013.

General Information

The course is an elective course for second-cycle studies for a Degree of Master of Science (120 credits) in geographic information science.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies
Geographical Information Science

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements
A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

The aim of the course is that students should on completion of the course be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Account for basic philosophy of science
- Explain and develop relevant research methodology to solve a scientific problem
- Evaluate different tools for literature search

Skills and ability

- Use tools for literature search
- Plan a scientific work based on applicable theories
- Use adequate presentation tools for conveyance of scientific information

Judgement and approach

This is a translation of the course syllabus approved in Swedish
• Compile, evaluate and discuss choice of materials and analytical methods to solve a given problem
• Review, evaluate and discuss the reliability of source materials and analyses critically

**Course content**

The course consists of four subparts:

- **Library science.** In this part, different tools and methods for literature search are studied.
- **Philosophy of Science.** This part treats basic philosophy of science. Different concepts such as realism, idealism, empiricism and positivism are treated.
- **Research methodology.** The part treats both quantitative and qualitative methods. Interview technique and participating observation techniques are presented and discussed.
- **Argumentation theory.** Skills to identify and analyse sustainable and unsustainable arguments in e.g. text material are developed within this part. Focus is on various types of arguments, e.g. deductive and inductive.

**Course design**

The course is a distance course and is distributed on the Internet. It is flexible designed which facilitate for the student to carry out the course on full-, half-, or part-time.

**Assessment**

Examination takes place through passed written assignments during the course.

*Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

**Grades**

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction. To pass the entire course is required passed on all included compulsory parts and passed project reports.

**Entry requirements**

For admission to the course, general entry requirements are required, English B and at least 180 credits completed courses. The course is however recommended primarily for students who stand in concept to start degree project for second-cycle studies.

**Further information**

This is a translation of the course syllabus approved in Swedish.
The course may not be included in a higher education qualification together with GIS404 Research methodology 7.5 credits and/or GISN15 Research methodology, 7.5 credits.
Subcourses in GISN27, GIS: Research Methodology

Applies from V13

1301  Research Methodology, 5.0 hp
       Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction