

UTVC24, Development Studies: Theory of Science and Research Methods: An Introduction, 15 credits

*Utvecklingsstudier: Vetenskapsteori och forskningsmetod - en introduktion, 15
högskolepoäng*
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Programme committee for the Bachelor of Science Programme in Development Studies on 2017-04-27 (STYR 2017/801). The syllabus comes into effect 2017-04-27 and is valid from the spring semester 2018.

General information

The course is a compulsory course on the Bachelor's programme in Development Studies, 180 credits.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

- G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

For a Pass on the course, the students shall

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate understanding of different strands of philosophy of science, in particular those of relevance to social sciences and development studies
- demonstrate understanding of the main research methods used in development studies

Competence and skills

- demonstrate ability to formulate research issues in development studies
- demonstrate ability to apply methods to collect and analyse different types of data
- demonstrate ability to apply basic concepts of philosophy of science to social sciences issues
- demonstrate ability to identify appropriate methods for various research issues in social sciences, with a focus on development studies
- demonstrate skills in communicating results in both speech and writing

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to evaluate critically the use and the usability of different philosophy of science specialisations in research and/or working life
- demonstrate the ability to evaluate critically the usability and appropriateness of different methods and techniques for relevant research issues in social sciences, with an emphasis on development studies

Course content

The aim of the course is to provide basic knowledge and understanding of philosophy of science and research methods within social sciences. Therefore, the essence of the course consists of presentations and discussions about philosophy of science and its relevance to social sciences. The student will be given an introduction to different research methods in social sciences, and their relevance for the study of contemporary social science research issues.

In the first part of the course, key perspectives in philosophy of science are presented, in particular those that relate to social sciences. Basic concepts, tools and terms are introduced. At the seminars, the focus is on applying the course content, as well as on the actual and potential application of philosophy of science in research and working life.

In the second part of the course, qualitative and quantitative research methods and their application are introduced, from the perspective of validity. The student will be given social sciences problems for reflection, and are to apply their knowledge of current development issues during seminars. As part of this work, the student will learn to formulate research issues and apply theories. Basic methods for collecting data and analysing interviews, surveys, observations and database material are introduced. Another key aspect of the course is for students to develop skills in

communicating results in both speech and writing.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars. Participation in the seminars is compulsory unless special there are special reasons. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

Assessment

The course consists of assessed seminars, a written invigilated exam, and a written take-home exam in the form of an individual project.

A first exam and two re-take opportunities are offered for every exam; one shortly after the first exam and one later that same year. Two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the end of the course. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

The grade for a non-passing result is Fail. The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E, the student must show sufficient results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A, the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

The grading scale does not apply to seminars. The grades awarded for these components are Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass, the student must show sufficient results. For the grade of Fail, the student must show insufficient results.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

Final grade

The final grade for the whole course consists of a calculated average of the grades awarded on the different modules, requiring a Pass on the assessed seminars. The invigilated exam corresponds to 40 per cent of the final grade and the individual Project corresponds to 60 per cent. The weighting of grades into a final grade for the entire course is based on a model in which the letter grades are translated as follows: A=5.0; B=4.0; C=3.0; D=2.0 and E=1.0, on which an average for the assessed

components is calculated. The total is rounded to the nearest integer.

Entry requirements

General and courses corresponding to the following Swedish Upper Secondary School Programs: Civics 1b/1a1+1a2, English 6.

Further information

The course may not be included in a degree together with UTVC04- Development Studies: Philosophy of science and research methodology- an introduction (15 credits) or UTVC 14- Development Studies: Philosophy of science and research methodology- an introduction (15 credits).

Plagiarism is considered a serious offense at Lund University, and disciplinary measures will be taken against for all forms of misconduct in connection with an assessment of study performance. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practice in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University.