



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

SANN15, Social Anthropology: Ethnographic Fieldwork, 15 credits

Socialantropologi: Etnografiskt fältarbete, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Sociology on 2020-12-10 and was last revised on 2025-10-23. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-11-05 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

The course is given as elective course in the master's programme in social anthropology, 120 credits as well as the master's programme in cultural criminology, 120 credits during semester three.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study Specialisation

Social Anthropology	A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements
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Learning outcomes

For a Pass on the course, the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate the ability to identify theoretical, methodological and empirical knowledge that has been acquired previously during the student's degree programme
- Show advanced knowledge of, and give an account of, the context where fieldwork takes place
- Demonstrate an understanding of, and be able to account for, the student's positionality as a researcher and how this may affect the fieldwork

- Demonstrate an understanding and an ability to critically discuss important processes and ethics in fieldwork as a method for data collection in the social sciences

Competence and skills

- Demonstrate an ability to identify theoretical, methodological and empirical knowledge acquired previously during the student's degree programme and reflect on its application and/or progress through fieldwork
- carry out a clearly delimited field work project
- demonstrate an ability to obtain access to, orientate itself in, and depart from the field
- demonstrate an ability to collect and compile field data with proper consideration to research ethics
- demonstrate the ability to analyse field work experiences and results

Judgement and approach

- show a specialised ability to assess the applicability of theories, methods and empirical knowledge, acquired previously during the student's degree programme, to the material that has been collected during the fieldwork critically
- show consciousness and ability to respond to the researcher's positionality and ethical questions that may arise during the fieldwork and the subsequent elaboration of fieldwork data
- demonstrate an ability to reflect upon how knowledge and experiences acquired during the fieldwork can inform further academic research

Course content

The course consists of an independently executed ethnographic fieldwork. The purpose of the fieldwork is to collect empirical material to be used in a degree project. The fieldwork course provides an option to the student to gather empirical data during the course period in order to respond to a research question formulated before start of the course. During the course, the student is performing advanced research linked to the chosen research subject and research questions.

Course design

The fieldwork course consists of three parts: (1) Preparation for fieldwork (2) Execution of fieldwork (3) Reporting results.

1. The fieldwork is prepared through a project plan written under supervision of a course coordinator and a supervisor.
2. The fieldwork is carried out independently but with continuous contact with, and feedback from, a supervisor.
3. The results are presented as an individual report compiled after the completion of the fieldwork.

The student should collect material during 320 hours/8 weeks in the field, after which the remaining 80 hours/2 weeks are used for the field report.

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 related to elected office, e.g. as a student representative.

Assessment

The course is assessed through a written individual report (15 credits). The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses that have ended during that school year. Within a year of a major change or discontinuation of the course, at least two further opportunities for assessment are offered on the same course content. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass

For the grade of Pass, the student must fulfil the learning outcomes specified for the course. 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 on the course.

Entry requirements

A Bachelor's degree with social sciences as the main field of study, including 30 credits of theory within social anthropology and sociology at second cycle level as well as 15 credits method within social anthropology and/or sociology at second cycle level.

Further information

It is the student's own responsibility to find an appropriate field work project and finance housing, travels, and other costs related to the fieldwork. This course replaces SANN14, Social anthropology: Ethnographic fieldwork, 15 credits, and may not be included in qualification together with this.