SGEL32, Human Geography: Research Methods, 7.5 credits
Samhällsgeografi: Forskningsmetodik, 7,5 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2012-05-31 and was last revised on 2017-03-07 by the board of the Department of Human Geography. The revised syllabus applies from 2017-03-15, autumn semester 2017.

General Information

The course is an elective course on the third year within the Bachelor programme in Urban and Regional planning, 180 credits.

Language of instruction: English and Swedish

Main field of studies	Depth of study relative to the degree requirements
Human Geography	G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to demonstrate

Knowledge and understanding
- knowledge and understanding of the disciplinary foundation of Human Geography,
- knowledge of current research questions in Human Geography,
- knowledge of applicable methods in Human Geography, such as geographic information systems (GIS),
- understanding of how the choice of method affects research results,
- understanding of the research terminology of Human Geography,

Competence and skills

- ability to apply and assess different techniques of qualitative and quantitative analysis,
- ability to apply correct academic referencing,
- ability to independently seek relevant information, critically analyse and evaluate the information and its sources, and effectively communicate the results,

Judgement and approach
- ability to assess validity and reliability in investigations,
- ability to make assessments in Human Geography informed by relevant disciplinary, societal and ethical issues,
- ability to critically reflect on the scientific role of Human Geography in the society.

Course content

The module aims to enable students to increase their knowledge of research methodology and apply a number of different investigation and analysis techniques, and understand the effects of different methods on data and research results. The module includes training in both qualitative and quantitative methods, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, exercises, laboratory sessions and seminars. Attendance at seminars is compulsory unless there are special grounds. An alternative form or date for compulsory components is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed teaching because of activities as a student representative.

Assessment

Assessment is based on four written take-home exams and one invigilated written exam.

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit in the 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.

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

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.
The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. 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 acceptable 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.

One of the take-home exams and the invigilated written exam are exempted from the grading scale above. The grades awarded for these components are Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass, the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail, the student must have shown unacceptable results.

The course grade is based on student's performance on three of the take-home exams, where the assessments are weighted equally. The conversion of the grades is based on a mathematical model where first letter grades are translated into figures in the following way: A=5,0; B=4,0; C=3,5; D=3,0 och E=2,5 and an average is then calculated. Figures are rounded down, apart for results of 4,5 or higher which are rounded to an A.

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.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, all course requirements must be met from the first year of the BS in Urban and Regional Planning and at least a further 45 credits must have been completed within the second year, constituting a total of at least 105 credits. Exemption can be granted if there are special reasons.

Further information

The course may not be included in a higher education qualification together with SGEK01: Human Geography: Bachelor Thesis, 30 credits; SGEK02: Human Geography: Bachelor Thesis, 30 credits, SGEK03 Human Geography: Bachelor Thesis, 30 credits and SGEL13: Human Geography, Research Methods, 7,5 credits. The course replaces SGEL13: Human Geography, Research Methods, 7,5 credits.

Subcourses in SGEL32, Human Geography: Research Methods

Applies from H12

1201   Human Geography: Research Methods, 7,5 hp
      Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A