



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

SIMM16, Social Sciences: Introduction to Quantitative Methods, 7.5 credits

Samhällsvetenskap: Introduktion till kvantitativ metod, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2015-11-19 and was last revised on 2019-02-12. The revised syllabus applies from 2019-03-25, spring semester 2019.

General Information

The course is offered as a single subject course in the Social Sciences and is an optional course within the Master of Science in Social Sciences programmes.

Language of instruction: English

<i>Main field of studies</i>	<i>Depth of study relative to the degree requirements</i>
Political Science	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Sociology of Law	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Human Geography	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Social Anthropology	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Gender Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Development Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Sociology	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Education	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course the students shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate an understanding of basic concepts and fundamental principles associated with quantitative methods

Competence and skills

- independently and with proficiency, show the ability to perform basic statistical analysis
- independently and with proficiency, demonstrate a working knowledge of SPSS
- independently and with proficiency, select the appropriate method, interpret the outcome and report the results
- independently and with proficiency, be able to formulate and in an appropriate way examine a hypothesis about a causal relationship

Judgement and approach

- assimilate and reflect on texts (reports or scientific papers) where the argument is based on basic statistical analysis in a knowledgeable, independent and theoretically informed way
- critically and independently reflect on methodological aspects of such analysis

Course content

The aim of this course is for students with little prior knowledge of quantitative methods to develop an understanding of the basic concepts and fundamental principles guiding the use of quantitative methods, acquire basic practical skills with regard to the performance of statistical analysis and develop the ability to critically assess quantitative research. The participants formulate a research question that includes a hypothesized causal relationship and that can be addressed using an available dataset. During the course different techniques for processing and analyzing data will be introduced and the participants will, mainly under teacher supervision, work on answering their own research question using the tools presented to them in the lectures. Participants will also learn to assimilate and evaluate existing quantitative social science research as it is presented in scientific journals and/or reports.

Course design

Teaching includes lectures, teacher assisted exercises in practical statistical analysis (computer lab work) and seminars. The course is teaching intensive and requires a high degree of participation.

Assessment

The learning outcomes will be examined through two papers, the first presenting results of applied analysis, and the second providing a critical assessment of quantitative research studies.

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. 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.

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.

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 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.

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.

The overall grade for the course is based 75% on the first paper (applied analysis) and 25% on the second paper (assessment of quantitative research.) For a grade of Pass on the entire course, the student must have been awarded at least E on all assessments for which the grading scale A–E+Fail applies, and the grade of Pass on all assessments for which the grading scale Pass with Distinction Pass – Fail applies. The student must also have participated in all compulsory components.

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the student must have 150 credits including a graded thesis for the degree of Bachelor, or a completed major, in the Social Sciences, or another equivalent subject.

A good command of English language both spoken and written, equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) proficiency in the Swedish secondary system, is required. Equivalence assessments will be made according to national guidelines.

Subcourses in SIMM16, Social Sciences: Introduction to Quantitative
Methods

Applies from V16

1501 Introduction to Quantitative Methods, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A