

SIMM22, Social Sciences: Research Methods in Social Sciences, 15 credits

*Social Sciences: Research Methods in Social Sciences, 15
högskolepoäng*
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2011-12-12 to be valid from 2012-01-23, spring semester 2012.

General Information

The course is offered as an interdisciplinary single subject course in Social Science at the second-cycle level and as an optional course within the Master of Science Programmes. Medium of instruction and assessment is English.

Language of instruction: English

<i>Main field of studies</i>	<i>Depth of study relative to the degree requirements</i>
Development Studies	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
Education	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
Sociology	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
Social Work	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Media and Communication Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Political Science

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Human Ecology

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to

- demonstrate his/her understanding of major research methods and the ability to make use of both quantitative and qualitative research techniques
- identify the appropriate techniques for different kinds of research questions
- apply his/her understanding of research methods in relation to contemporary issues in the Social Sciences
- critically assess the utility and appropriateness of diverse methods and techniques for the study of relevant research issues in the Social Sciences
- communicate scientific issues and follow the development of knowledge within their field of study

Course content

The aim of the course is to provide comprehensive understanding of the diverse research methods used in the Social Sciences, and to convey the necessary practical skills required for their application. Through lectures, seminars and practical workshops, the course will provide students with relevant knowledge of major research methods, their respective uses and usefulness, and their relevance for the study of contemporary Social Science research issues.

Course design

The course begins with an introduction to research design, encompassing both qualitative and quantitative research methods and their uses, seen in relation to the question of validity. Students will be required to study a Social Science problem assigned to them, applying their knowledge and skills to this problem throughout the course. Techniques for data collection and analyses of interviews, questionnaires, observation, and database material will be taught in workshops. Development of the skills required for both written and oral dissemination of results is also a key feature of the course.

The course will be given in the form of lectures and workshops. Lectures will focus on both qualitative and quantitative research methods, especially with regard to validity, data collection, data analysis and dissemination of research results. The workshops will focus on the practical implementation of diverse research techniques. Students are expected to have read and reflected upon relevant course literature prior to lectures, as well as to come prepared to participate actively in workshops.

Assessment

Assessment will be based on the following:

- written and oral presentation of an assigned research problem
- practical and written workshop assignments
- active participation in the course in its entirety

Re-examination will be offered after the end of the course. If necessary, a second re-examination will be arranged at a later date.

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 grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. 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.

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 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.

In addition, the students must have a minimum average grade in their Bachelor's studies equivalent to 3.0 out of 4 in cumulated grade point average (CGPA), C in the ECTS grading scale, and B in the American grading scale. For students with Swedish undergraduate studies the minimum requirement is G.

English 6/ English B (advanced) proficiency, or the equivalent.

Further information

The course was adopted by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on November 17, 2011, and the syllabus was approved by the Committee for International Programmes on December 12, 2011.

This syllabus is valid from the spring term of 2012.

The course cannot be included in a degree together with SIM402 Research Methods in Social Sciences 15 credits, SIMM02 Research Methods in Social Sciences 15 credits or SIMM12 Research Methods in Social Sciences 15 credits.

The course cannot be included in a degree together with SIMM21 Methods for Research in the Social Sciences 15 credits eller SIMM31 Methods for Research in the Social Sciences 15 credits.

Subcourses in SIMM22, Social Sciences: Research Methods in Social Sciences

Applies from V12

1101 Research Methods in Social Sciences, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A