



Faculty of Social Sciences

SIMM29, Social Sciences: Evaluation Research - Theories and Methods, 7.5 credits

Social Sciences: Evaluation Research - Theories and Methods, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2011-12-12 (S2011/331) and was last revised on 2025-02-13. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-02-13 and is valid from the spring semester 2025.

General information

The course is offered as an interdisciplinary single subject course in Social Sciences, at the second-cycle level, and as an optional course within the Master of Science Programmes in Development Studies, Global Studies, and Social Studies of Gender.

Language of instruction: English

<i>Main field of study</i>	<i>Specialisation</i>
Social Anthropology	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
Media and Communication 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
Social Work	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
Political Science	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Upon the completion of the course, the student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge of different roles an evaluation can have in relation to a policy cycle
- demonstrate an understanding of selected evaluation types and strategies.
- demonstrate understanding of the importance of reliable, valid and situated evaluation structure
- demonstrate an understanding of how different evaluation types and strategies may influence evaluation results or the usage of evaluation results.

Competence and skills

- formulate relevant evaluation questions
- develop and convene constructive critique to an evaluation plan
- design and present a coherent scientifically based evaluation study using both verbal and written communication

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate insights in the possibilities and limitations of different types of evaluation strategies and designs
- demonstrate a critical understanding of the role and use of evaluation results in today's society

Course content

This course gives the student hands on practice in how to develop an evaluation and how and why it is important to ground evaluation on a logical foundation. It gives an overview of different available evaluation strategies and related scientific methodological approaches within the broad field of evaluation research.

The course will discuss

- what differentiates evaluation research from other types of social scientific research?
- what are the requirements for a scientifically based evaluation?

- what are the relation between evaluation results/evaluators and the political and social context where they will be used?
- which are the key questions in evaluation research and how do they relate to the fields where the evaluations are applied and utilized?

Major emphasis is placed on the development of an evaluation plan and in understanding how different theoretical approaches and methodological strategies may influence the final evaluation results. As part of the development of an evaluation plan the student will train to build relevant evaluation questions, consider if and when a qualitative, quantitative or combination of approaches is more appropriate and create realistic research schedules to produce evaluation results that can be timely produced

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, and workshops. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in the workshops and students are expected to make oral and written presentations. Students who have been unable to participate in compulsory components, 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 assessment for this course will be based upon the composing of an *Evaluation Plan* (made in groups), and individual work comprising of a reflection paper (*Reflection on Evaluation Research I*) and a home-exam (*Reflection on Evaluation research II*).

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.

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 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.

The overall course grade is based on the following:

- Group evaluation plan (80%)
- Individual home-exam (20%)

The paper *Reflection on Evaluation Research I* is exempt from the grading scale above. The grades for this component is 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 grade for the whole course consists of a weighted average of the graded components in which A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2 and E = 1. In cases where the average yielded has a decimal of 0.5 or higher, the value should be rounded up to the nearest whole number. For a grade of Pass on the entire course, the student must have been awarded at least an E on all assessments for which the for which the grading scale A-E+Fail applies, and the grade of Pass on all assessments for which the grading scale Pass – Fail applies. The student must also have participated in all compulsory components.

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

To be admitted to the course, students must have completed 150 credits including a Bachelor's degree project in Political Science, Sociology, Social Anthropology, Education, Social Work, Sociology of Law, Gender Studies, Human Geography, Development Studies, Media and Communication Studies or the equivalent.

Oral and written proficiency in English equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. International qualifications will be assessed in accordance with national guidelines.

Further information

The course cannot be included in a degree together with SIMM09 Evaluation research: Theories and Methods 7.5 credits or SIMM19 Evaluation Research: Theories and Methods 7.5 credits.