Faculty of Social Sciences

SIMM48, Qualitative Analysis and Coding (Using Software), 7.5 credits

Kvalitativ analys och kodning (med mjukvara), 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2018-11-26 and was last revised on 2026-01-29. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-01-29 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

General information

The course is offered as single subject course in Social Sciences and contributes to the fulfillment of the theory of science/research methods requirements in several master programmes at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study	*Specialisation*
Human Geography	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
Development 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	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

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

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- critically reflect on qualitative analysis as a research methodology in the social sciences
- understand how CAQDAS software allows researchers to systematically organise, process, integrate, code, and interpret qualitative data
- know how to develop research questions and link analytical strategies to empirical and theoretical problems
- understand the particular issues qualitative data present for conceptualisation, operationalisation, and measurement

Competence and skills

- demonstrate proficiency in the organisation and management of data for qualitative analysis in using CAQDAS software
- demonstrate proficiency in multiple analytical strategies for coding and software-assisted coding of data for qualitative analysis
- demonstrate the ability to carry out individual and collaborative analysis at the Masters' level focused on the qualitative study of textual documents

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate a methodologically rigorous approach to and critical evaluation of qualitative analysis of textual data
- demonstrate a critical evaluation of software-assisted approaches to qualitative analysis

Course content

Qualitative data can help us to understand the world, build theory, and advance knowledge. But how does qualitative analysis work – how can we systematically organise, process, integrate, and understand qualitative data - and specifically textual data - while using CAQDAS software?

This course provides the opportunity to focus in depth on qualitative analysis with CAQDAS software in both theory and practice, and prepares the student for research at the master's and doctoral level. The student will develop the skills necessary to conduct qualitative data analysis individually and in collaboration with others to generate new knowledge about the social world.

This course provides the student with a range of strategies for qualitative analysis with CAQDAS software and hands-on practice developing research questions. The student will learn to code data using CAQDAS software and will gain experience carrying out analysis in both individual and collaborative projects. We will consider the particular issues qualitative data present for conceptualisation, operationalisation, and measurement. The strengths and limitations of qualitative data will be discussed and diverse inductive and deductive strategies for analysis will be practiced.

Throughout the course, we will work with extant data. We will develop research questions, build datasets, code data and develop preliminary analyses, build collaborative teams, and work in small groups to analyse data using diverse qualitative approaches. We will learn to develop codebooks and use visualisation in theory-building and analysis. By the end of the course, the student will be able to confidently code and analyse qualitative data using CAQDAS software.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars, and workshops. The course is teaching intensive and requires a high degree of participation. The course contains a number of smaller compulsory assignments that help prepare the student for the final paper. Failure to participate in these assignments will be compensated for with written make-up assignments during the course.

Assessment

Assessment is based on the following:

- final written paper

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 grade for the course is based on the final written paper. In order to pass the course, the student must have completed all compulsory assignments and have earned at least an E on the final paper.

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 the social sciences, humanities or the equivalent.

Oral and written proficiency in English corresponding to a Pass in English 6/B from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. The assessment of corresponding qualifications is made with reference to national guidelines. International students are exempted from the general entry requirement of proficiency in Swedish.