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 2023-09-29. The revised syllabus applies from 2024-01-15, spring semester 2024.

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 studies	Depth of study relative to the degree requirements
Political Science	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 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
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
Education	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
Media and Communication Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Main field of studies	Depth of study relative to the degree requirements
Social Work	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 methods for qualitative analysis that allow researchers to systematically organise, process, integrate, interpret, and understand qualitative data
- understand the strengths and limitations of qualitative data and qualitative methods for analysis
- 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.
- demonstrate proficiency in multiple analytical strategies for hand 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 and theoretically driven approach to the qualitative analysis of empirical data
- demonstrate a critical evaluation, including the potentials and limits, of qualitative analysis in the social sciences.
- demonstrate a critical evaluation of manual and 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?

This course provides the opportunity to focus in depth on qualitative analysis 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 and

hands-on practice developing research questions and analytical strategies. The student will learn to code data manually and 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 manually and 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Subcourses in SIMM48, Qualitative Analysis and Coding (Using Software)

Applies from V24

2401   Qualitative Analysis and Coding (Using Software), 7,5 hp
         Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A

Applies from V19

1901   Final Project, 7,5 hp
         Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A