



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

**SIMM52, Social Sciences: Designing Research in Social
Sciences, 7.5 credits**
*Samhällsvetenskap: Samhällsvetenskaplig forskningsdesign, 7,5
högskolepoäng*
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2023-02-22 and was last revised on 2023-06-09. The revised syllabus applies from 2023-08-28, autumn semester 2023.

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

<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
Middle Eastern Studies	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
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
Social Work	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
Development Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Main field of studies

Sociology of Law

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

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

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate comprehensive understanding of research design;
- demonstrate familiarity with diverse approaches to research and knowledge creation;
- demonstrate understanding of the role of theory of science in research design;

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to do a systematic search to map a field and review the literature;
- identify relevant research areas and design theoretically underpinned and operationalizable research questions;

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate insight into social scientific knowledge creation;
- communicate and assess the suitability of a research question for examining identified research areas.

Course content

The course aims to provide the student with an understanding of and skills in research design in the social sciences. More specifically, the following issues are covered by the course: research approaches, applied philosophy of science in the social sciences, literature overview, selection of a research topic, contextualizing the research topic, role of theories in research, formulation of research questions, research design, research ethics, and reflexivity in the research process. The course introduces these issues through theoretical discussions and practical exercises. The student works both in groups and individually.

Course design

Course activities are based on lectures, seminars and workshops. Lectures introduce core concepts by drawing on course literature. Seminars require active participation of the student and focus on practical exercises. Among other things, they provide a space for the student to train the above-mentioned skills and apply the knowledge to develop own research project in a continuous dialogue with other students and the teachers.

Workshops are designed to support students in their group work, by providing them with tools for team building and problem solution in the specific context of academic collaboration.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in workshops and seminars. Students who have been unable to participate 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 an individually written assignment.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Within a year of the end of the course, two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered. 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 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 the student is informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

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. The student must also have participated in all compulsory components.

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course, the student must have at least 150 higher education credits, including a graded thesis for the degree of Bachelor in the Social Sciences, Humanities, or equivalent.

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

Further information

The course partially replaces SIMM51: Social Sciences: The Social Scientific Research Design and Process and cannot be included together in a degree with the courses SIMM51, SIMM41, or SIMM31.

Subcourses in SIMM52, Social Sciences: Designing Research in Social Sciences

Applies from H23

2301 Designing Research in Social Sciences, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A