



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

**SIMM54, Social Sciences: Feminist Methodologies and
Theories of Knowledge, 7.5 credits**
*Samhällsvetenskap: Feministiska metodologier och kunskapsteorier,
7,5 högskolepoäng*
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2023-02-22 to be valid 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>
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
Political Science	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
Human Geography	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
Middle Eastern Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

This is a translation of the course syllabus approved in Swedish

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate comprehensive understanding of key feminist debates about methodology and theories of knowledge;
- identify, account for and discuss different epistemological starting points in feminist research;
- discuss and define key terms in theory of science with scholarly precision;
- demonstrate familiarity with diverse approaches to research and the ability to locate them in different traditions in the field of gender studies;

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to present and reflect on selected issues in feminist methodologies and theories of knowledge;
- comprehend, evaluate and apply the concepts and theories of knowledge introduced during the course to account for and analyze scholarly work;
- give an account of central issues regarding research politics and ethics within feminist research and gender studies;
- actively and in a constructive and independent way participate in discussions and presentations around feminist approaches to methodology and theories of knowledge;

Judgement and approach

- independently reflect on philosophical, ethical and political aspects of and dilemmas in feminist research;
- reflect on relationships between theory, concepts and methods in the context of relevant epistemological and ontological discussions;
- independently reflect on and assess the importance of research for, and its effects on, the surrounding society;
- reflect on gender and other aspects of power in research processes, including the role of the positionality of the researcher, the positionality and agency of participants and other interested parties.

Course content

The course aims to provide students with an understanding of key issues in feminist methodologies and theories of knowledge. More specifically, the following issues are covered by the course: an overview of key concepts in theory of science in feminism, issues and debates in feminist theories of knowledge, main methodological approaches and traditions in feminist research and in gender studies, research ethics and politics, and feminist approaches to and practices of reflexivity. The course introduces these issues through theoretical discussions and practical exercises.

Course design

The teaching consists of readings, lectures, seminars, including discussions, presentations and exercises. Students engage with the core issues of the course

through individual work and group discussions.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in 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

The assessment of the course will be based on an individually written paper.

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 offering 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.

The grade for the entire course is based on the individually written paper. 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 grading scale A-E+Fail applies. The student must also have participated in all the 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*, 15 credits.

Subcourses in SIMM54, Social Sciences: Feminist Methodologies and Theories of Knowledge

Applies from H23

2301 Feminist Methodologies and Theories of Knowledge, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A