



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

SIMM55, Research Interviews, 7.5 credits

Forskningsintervjun som vetenskaplig metod, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2021-09-27 to be valid from 2022-01-17, spring semester 2022.

General Information

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

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Depth of study relative to the degree 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

Sociology

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

Political Science

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

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate their theoretical understanding of research interviews;
- differentiate research interviews from other qualitative research methods in social science;
- identify the type of research questions that are suitable for drawing on interviewing as a research method;
- discuss research interviews as a research method in relation to different epistemologies;
- compare and contrast different types of research interviews.

Competence and skills

- design and plan research interviews;
- construct an interview guide;
- conduct focus group interviews;
- conduct in-depth interviews;
- conduct online interviews;
- analyse interview data.

Judgement and approach

- critically assess ethical issues related to research interviews;
- critically assess specific ethical issues related to interviewing individuals in vulnerable situations;
- critically reflect on the role of the interviewer in the interview process;
- critically reflect upon strengths and weaknesses of research interviews as a method of data collection in social science.

Course content

The course provides a theoretical understanding of and practical training in the research interview method. The aim of the course is to provide the student with the tools they need to design, plan and execute a scientific study using the research interview method. The focus of the course is on conducting interviews, the role of the interviewer/moderator, the relationship between the interviewer and the interviewees, and practical circumstances in planning and conducting research interviews, including face-to-face interviews and online interviews, single interviews and group interviews, and elite interviews, non-elite interviews and field interviews. The course also situates research interviews within the broader methodology of social science/differentiates research interviews from other research methodologies in social science, discusses the intellectual history of the research interview method, epistemological issues relating to interviews, what research questions are appropriate studying with research interviews, ethical issues related to research interviews, and offers a brief primer on analysing interview data.

Course design

The course consists of lectures, workshops, and a final paper.

During the course, the student develops the design of a scientific study using research interviews. In order to enhance the learning experience, the students are divided into peer learning groups where the assignments are discussed and where they do exercises. The lectures introduce an overview of the interview process and theoretical concepts. The workshops allow the student to focus on/engage with the practical aspects of interviewing. The workshops concentrate on different parts of the research process, ie from designing research questions, "sample" strategies, interview guides, recruitment of participants, to conducting various types of interviews, transcribing and analysing interview data. Before each workshop, there is a mandatory assignment to be sent to the teacher and to the peer learning group.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in workshops (group work). 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 paper related to the course content and the course literature.

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 reexamination 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.

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, 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.

The student's final grade on the course will be determined based on the results of the individually written 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 eligible for the course students must have a Bachelor's degree with a major (i.e. at least 90 ECTS credits) in Development Studies, Gender Studies, Human Geography, Political Science, Social Anthropology, Social Work, Sociology or Sociology of Law, 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.

Subcourses in SIMM55, Research Interviews

Applies from V22

2201 Research Interviews, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A