



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

SIMM58, Social Sciences: Methods in Development Studies, 7.5 credits

*Samhällsvetenskap: Forskningsmetodologi i utvecklingsstudier, 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 fulfilment of the theory of science/research methods requirement in several master programmes at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Social Work

Sociology of Law

Development Studies

Social Anthropology

Middle Eastern Studies

Human Geography

Sociology

Gender Studies

Political Science

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

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

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Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate knowledge of different research approaches, methods and analytical tools in contemporary development studies
- Identify and discuss the methodological foundations of empirical findings presented in published development research
- Demonstrate an understanding of different research dissemination and outreach strategies

Competence and skills

- Compare, contrast, and evaluate the suitability of various methods to address specific research questions
- Exemplify appropriate sources and types of data and discuss their merits and limitations for analysing specific development issues
- Demonstrate the ability to constructively and respectfully engage in group work to successfully complete defined tasks and assignments

Judgement and approach

- Critically appraise the opportunities and limitations of different research approaches, methods and analytical tools in contemporary development studies
- Propose, substantiate, and justify a plan for data collection/construction and analysis to a specific case in development studies
- Practice reflexivity on positionality and adhere to ethical considerations in the research process

Course content

The course provides ample learning opportunities for the student to access, compare and understand a variety of research approaches and methods in contemporary development studies. With an emphasis on qualitative research, the course will demonstrate and highlight main approaches and principles for the collection, construction and analysis of different types of data (text, numbers, images etc.) from primary as well as secondary and tertiary sources.

A focal point of the course is to address key differences between various methods and tools for data collection and analysis and their potential for complementarity while keeping incompatibility in mind. The course also focuses on the importance of research dissemination and provides examples of constructive outreach strategies to reach diverse audiences. Throughout the course there will be emphasis on ethical considerations and positionality of doing research in a development study context.

Course design

Course activities are based on lectures, seminars and group presentations. Lectures introduce core concepts and examples of various methods drawing on course literature. Seminars serve to critically reflect on and discuss the course literature in smaller groups with fellow students and teachers. While group presentations serve to

show that the seminar material is well understood they should also inspire the audience to further discuss the issues and methodology at hand.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in the oral presentation of the written group take-home exam. 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:

- One written group take-home exam (40 % of grade)
- One written individual take-home exam (60 % of grade)

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 consists of a weighted average of the following assessment assignments, where A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, E = 1:

- One written group take-home exam (40 % of grade)
- One written individual take-home exam (60 % of grade)

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, and the grade of Pass on all assessments for which the grading scale Pass-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 SIMM58, Social Sciences: Methods in Development Studies

Applies from H23

2301 Methods in Development Studies, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A