



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

SIMM59, Social Sciences: Document Research, 7.5 credits *Samhällsvetenskap: Dokumentforskning, 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

<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
Development Studies	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 Work	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
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
Sociology	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

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge of the basic strategies for selecting and justifying document-based methods,
- use appropriate terms and concepts to communicate the implications of document-based research,
- describe the various genres of document-based research,
- identify the methods of generating and analyzing documentary information,

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to use knowledge of document-based research for the benefit of research projects of various intention and extension,
- demonstrate proficiency in multiple strategies of document analysis, such as cross-sectional analysis, thematization, and interpretation,

Judgement and approach

- critically assess the varieties of documents available for research in the face of different social scientific knowledge demands,
- take a position on the possibilities and limitations of document research in the face of different social scientific demands.

Course content

The course surveys the main genres of document-based research, such as secondary data research and archival research, and provides some depth regarding selected types of such research. It surveys mostly qualitative approaches, including thematic analysis, (qualitative) content analysis, and narrative analysis. It discusses also some quantitative approaches, such as event analysis and (quantitative) content analysis. Further, it selectively elaborates on some techniques of analysis of documentary information. Finally, it situates documentary information in the broader context of research design, thus considering such aspects as the research question, literature review, epistemology, bias, and so on.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars. 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

Assessment is based on one written individual 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 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 SIMM59, Social Sciences: Document Research

Applies from H23

2301 Document Research, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A