



Faculty of Social Sciences

SIMZ31, Master's (Two Years) Thesis in Development Studies, 30 credits

Examensarbete för masterexamen i utvecklingsstudier, 30 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2021-10-28 to be valid from 2022-01-17, spring semester 2022.

General Information

The master's thesis course is offered as a compulsory degree project in the final term of the Master of Science Programme in Development Studies, 120 credits. In the course the student will write a thesis in Development Studies that also fulfils the learning outcomes for a thesis in one of the following disciplines:

- Development Studies
- Gender Studies
- Human Geography
- Political Science
- Social Anthropology
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Sociology of Law

Language of instruction: English

The student shall produce a thesis written in English and be examined in English.

Main field of studies

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

Political Science

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Social Anthropology

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Social Work

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Gender Studies	A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)
Human Geography	A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)
Sociology	A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)
Sociology of Law	A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)
Development Studies	A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Development Studies, including both a broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight in current research and development work;
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the chosen field of study.

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess, and deal with complex phenomena, issues, and situations, even with limited information;
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues critically, autonomously, and creatively, as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames, and so contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as the ability to evaluate this work;
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing, both nationally and internationally, to clearly report and discuss their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments upon which they are based in dialogue with different audiences;
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or autonomous employment in some other qualified capacity;
- demonstrate an ability to correctly cite and refer to literature and other relevant material;
- communicate scientific issues and follow the development of knowledge within their field of study.

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the chosen field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social, and ethical issues, and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work;

- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society, and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used;
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for one's own ongoing learning.

Course content

This course consists of a degree project for which the student independently designs and executes a scientific inquiry. The student should identify a relevant research problem in the field of Development Studies from a social sciences perspective, select appropriate methods, apply comprehensive theoretical and empirical material, and report the findings in the form of a written text. The research process is guided by a supervisor at the department of the student's major. While the supervisor provides constructive feedback on the basic structure of the inquiry, the thesis represents an independent research effort, and therefore it is the authors themselves who are responsible for the final product.

Course design

The teaching consists of supervision sessions, self-directed studies, and seminars.

The student is entitled to supervision when writing the degree project. The hours of supervision are limited to the semester in which the student first registered for the course. Exceptions can be made if there are special grounds.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in the examination 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 grade for the course is based on the student's thesis and the assessment is made by a specially appointed examiner from the department of the student's major. The student's degree project is to be discussed at a seminar in which the student is to orally present and discuss the design, execution, and results, and will receive comments from the examiner. The student must also review and oppose a fellow student's thesis in a separate opposition seminar. The examination seminars are not graded but compulsory participation is required. The examiner will take the quality of student's defence and the opponent's review into account in the overall assessment of the thesis.

The student's final thesis is to be registered in an Open Access database belonging to Lund University. Each student determines their own level of publication.

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination, and a second re-sit. The student must participate in both a defence and opposition seminar for every new submission.

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.

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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.

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 the compulsory examination seminars.

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 admitted to the course, the student must have successfully completed 60 credits of the programme, including 30 credits of the programme's profile courses and 30 credits of courses in research methods/theory of science.

Further information

This course cannot be included in a degree together with SIMT23-33: Master's (Two Years) Thesis in Development Studies, 30 credits or SIMV23-33: Master's (Two Years) Thesis in Development Studies, 30 credits.

Subcourses in SIMZ31, Master's (Two Years) Thesis in Development Studies

Applies from V22

- 2201 Major: Development Studies, 30,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2202 Major: Gender Studies, 30,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2203 Major: Human Geography, 30,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2204 Major: Political Science, 30,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2205 Major: Social Anthropology, 30,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2206 Major: Social Work, 30,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2207 Major: Sociology, 30,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2208 Major: Sociology of Law, 30,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A