

SMMP21, Methods in Social Sciences, 15 credits

Samhällsvetenskapliga metoder, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Service Management and Service Studies on 2013-11-26 and was last revised on 2013-11-26. The revised syllabus applies from 2014-01-01, spring semester 2014.

General Information

The course may not be included in a main field of study. The course is included in the Master's programme in service management and is given the second semester

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

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Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

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

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall

- demonstrate good skills within questionnaire surveys, interview and observation techniques and document studies
- be able to discuss, explain and understand the choice of method in order to carry out a scientific study
- be able to operationalise an abstract theoretical aim to a concrete study,
- be able to produce, analyse and present research results by using scientific method and
- be able to critically evaluate the usability of different methods within social sciences.

Course content

The course intends to give the student methodological skills that can be used within social sciences research. Focus is on aim formulation, research design and research process. The course uses lectures, seminars and workshops to communicate relevant knowledge about methods in social sciences and their respective fields of use. The course intends to give the student skills to understand the relation between qualitative and quantitative method in relation to validity i.e. the ability to contribute to an understanding of a specific research issue. During the course, the student will practice the ability of preparing and carry out interviews, observations, document analysis and questionnaires. The student will also practice the analysis of results that have been collected by means of the chosen method. Also, the ability to reflect upon the process of requiring relevant information will be trained.

The course contains the following parts:

Quantitative method (6 credits). This part treats basic quantitative method, such as correlation analyses and questionnaire construction. Further, an introduction is given to the statistical programme SPSS. This part starts with an introduction to the course that includes general method issues with a focus on research design, research process, research issues and ethics.

Qualitative method (6 credits). This part includes observation, interview, various types of document analysis and other examples of qualitative methods.

Method deconstruction (3 credits). This part intends to build up a critical approach to methodological and analytical strategies in scientific work.

Course design

The teaching is given as lectures, method exercises, computer-based laboratory sessions and seminars. Teaching is given in qualitative and quantitative methodology.

Attendance in method exercises, computer-based laboratory sessions and seminars are compulsory unless there are special grounds. An alternative form or date for compulsory components is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond control e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed teaching because of activities as a student representative.

Assessment

The course is examined through individual written examinations, oral presentations and written assignments.

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 offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

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 grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. 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.

The students performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade E, the student should show sufficient results. For the grade of D, the student must show satisfactory results. For a grade of C, the students performance shall be good. For the grade of B, the student must show very good results. For the grade of A, the student must show excellent results. For a grade of U, the students performance shall have been insufficient.

At the start of the course, the students are informed of the learning outcomes in the syllabus and the grading scale and its application on the course.

Entry requirements

The student should be admitted to the Master's programme in service management (SASMA).

Subcourses in SMMP21, Methods in Social Sciences

Applies from V14

- 1301 Written Examination, 6,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1302 Report, 4,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1303 Method Deconstruction, 3,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1304 Oral Examination, 2,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A