



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

## **SMMP21, Methods in Social Sciences, 15,0 credits**

*Samhällsvetenskapliga metoder, 15.0 högskolepoäng*

**Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå**

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### **Confirmation**

The course syllabus is an old version confirmed by the board of the Department of Service Management and Service Studies on 2013-11-26 and was valid from 2014-01-01.

### **General Information**

#### **Course goal**

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 implementation**

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.

### **Course examination**

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

In connection with the course, three examination sessions being offered; regular test and two re-examinations.

Within a year after the end of the course are offered at least two additional examination sessions on the same course contents.

After that, the student is offered additional examination sessions, but in accordance with then current course syllabus.

### **Grading scale**

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 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).