



Faculty of Social Sciences

## SMMV18, Theory of Social Sciences, 7.5 credits

*Vetenskapsteori för samhällsvetenskaper, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Service Management and Service Studies on 2019-03-20 and was last revised on 2026-02-12 by the board of the Department of Service Studies. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-02-12 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

### General information

The course is a compulsory component in the first semester and included in the Master's (120 credits) programme in Service Management (SASMA). The course is given for all specialisations.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of study*    *Specialisation*

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

### Learning outcomes

For a grade of Pass on the course, the student shall be able to

#### Knowledge and understanding

- describe, explain, compare, and critically review theories within social science research,
- describe, explain and compare concepts in theory of science, and
- describe social phenomena based on different social science theories and reflect on the differences in understanding, interpretation, and explanation that result from them.

## Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to independently conduct information searches,
- identify theories in social science research in research articles and theses, and explain their role in research design,
- identify basic assumptions in scientific theory in research articles and theses, and explain their role in research design, and
- reflect on the connection between basic assumptions in theory of science, social science theories, and research design.

## Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to evaluate different types of knowledge.

## Course content

The aim of the course is for students to develop an in-depth familiarity with social science theories and theory of science concepts. The course introduces different approaches to science and problematises how theories are produced and used. The themes addressed are: theory of science and social science theories, and their connection to research design and choice of methods.

## Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and workshops.

## Assessment

The course is examined as follows:

- Individual examination (6.5 credits), module code 2601
- Group work (0,5 credit), module code 2602
- Active participation in seminars (0,5 credit), module code 2603

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses completed in the past year (catch-up exam). At least two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of a major change to, or discontinuation of, the course. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered, 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.

## Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

The grade for a non-passing result is Fail. The student's performance is assessed on the basis of the learning outcomes for 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 has shown unacceptable results.

Module codes 2602 and 2603 are exceptions to the grading scale above, where the grading scale is Pass or Fail. The course grade A-E is determined by the grade on module code 2601 and a requirement for a grade of Pass on module codes 2602 and 2603.

At the start of the course, students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the course 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 be admitted to the Master's (120 credits) programme in Service Management (SASMA).

Oral and written proficiency in English corresponding to English 6/B from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. International qualifications will be assessed in accordance with national guidelines.