



Faculty of Social Sciences

SMMV21, 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 2019-09-11 to be valid from 2020-01-01, spring semester 2020.

General Information

The course is included in the second semester of the Master of Science (120 credits) programme in Service Management and is common to all specialisations of the programme.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Service Management

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

For a Pass on the course, the students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate specialised understanding of the choice of method in order to perform a research study

Competence and skills

- demonstrate specialised ability with regard to surveys, interview and observation methods and document studies
- demonstrate the ability to convert an abstract theoretical objective into a concrete investigation, and

- demonstrate the ability to use research methods to produce, analyse and present research results

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate specialised ability to critically assess the usefulness of different methods for social sciences disciplines.

Course content

The aim of the course is to provide the student with methodological skills that can be used within social sciences research. The focus is on aim formulation, research design and research process. The course provides relevant knowledge of social sciences methods and their different areas of application. The teaching deals with qualitative and quantitative methodology and their interrelationship. In addition to acquiring knowledge of the theoretical background of the methods, the students are enabled to practise different methods.

The course intends to provide students with skills to understand the relationship between qualitative and quantitative methodology in relation to validity i.e. the different methods ability to contribute to an understanding of a specific research issue. The focus is on different types of interview, observation, document analysis and survey. The methods are linked both to methodological starting points and to practical implementation.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, method exercises, computer-based laboratory sessions and seminars. The computer-based laboratory sessions use statistical programs and the method exercises take place in the field.

Attendance in method exercises, computer-based laboratory sessions and seminars are compulsory unless there are special grounds. 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 assessment is based on an individual invigilated exam (7 credits), an individual oral test prepared in groups (4 credits) and a written assignment in groups (4 credits).

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 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.

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 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 A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

For the grade of Pass, the student must have been awarded at least the grade of E for all assessed components. Students who do not meet this requirement are graded Fail.

The grade for the course as a whole is calculated in several stages:

The grades for assessed components 1, 2 and 3 are converted to the following points: E = 1p, D = 2 p, C = 3p, B = 4 p, A = 5 p. The points are multiplied with the number of credits for each assessed component.

Component 1 corresponds to 7 credits, component 2 to 4 credits and component 3 to 4 credits.

The grade levels for the final grade are the following:

15 - 22 p = final grade E

23 - 37 p = final grade D

38 - 52 p = final grade C

53 - 67 p = final grade B

68 - 75 p = final grade A

The lowest number of points for the whole course is 15 (E on all assessed components). The highest number of points for the whole course is 75 (A on all assessed components).

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 fulfilled course requirements amounting to at least 15 credits within the programme.

Subcourses in SMMV21, Methods in Social Sciences

Applies from V20

- 2001 Individual exam, 7,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2002 Individual oral exam, 4,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2003 Written assignment, 4,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A