Faculty of Social Sciences

SMMX21, 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 2022-09-14 to be valid from 2023-01-16, spring semester 2023.

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	Depth of study relative to the degree requirements
Service Management	A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

For a Pass on the course, the student shall:

Knowledge and understanding
- have specialised understanding of the choice of method in order to perform a research study

Competence and skills
- have specialised ability with regard to surveys, interview and observation methods and document studies,
- have the ability to convert an abstract theoretical objective into a concrete investigation, and
- have the ability to use research methods to produce, analyse and present research results.

Judgement and approach
- have 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 research design and research process. The course provides relevant knowledge of social sciences methods and their respective areas of application. The teaching deals with qualitative and quantitative methodology and their interrelationship. In addition to understanding the theoretical starting points of the methods, the course aims to provide practical exercises using the different methods.

The course intends give the student skills to understand the process from abstract aim formulation to concrete data collection and analysis. Chosen methods are thus connected both to methodological starting points and to practical implementations.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, computer-based laboratory sessions, workshops and seminars. The computer-based laboratory sessions are conducted using statistical programs.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, participation in seminars is compulsory. Compensation or alternative dates for compulsory components are offered to students who, for legitimate reasons e.g. accidents, sudden illness or similar, are unable to carry out the compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

Assessment

Assessment of the course is based on:

Component 1: Individual invigilated test (5 credits)

Component 2: Individual oral test that is prepared in groups (4 credits)

Component 3: Two written assignments in groups (3 credits each)

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-examination close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses completed in the past year (catch-up exam). Within a year of a major change or discontinuation of the course, at least two further opportunities for assessment are offered on the same course content. 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 sufficient 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 will have shown unacceptable results.

For the grade of Pass, the student must have been awarded at least the grade of E for all module codes. Students who do not meet this requirement receive the grade of Fail.

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

The grades for module codes 2301, 2302, 2303 and 2304 are converted to the following points: E = 1 p, D = 2 p, C = 3 p, B = 4 p, A = 5 p. The points are multiplied by the number of credits for each module code.

Module code 2301 corresponds to 5 credits, module code 2302 corresponds to 4 credits, module codes 2303 and 2304 correspond to 3 credits each.

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 for all module codes). The highest number of points for the whole course is 75 (A for all module codes).

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 in 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.

Further information

This course replaces Methods in Social Sciences, SMMV21, 15 credits, and cannot be included in the same degree.

Subcourses in SMMX21, Methods in Social Sciences

Applies from V23

2301   Individual written exam, 5,0 hp
       Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
2302   Individual oral exam, 4,0 hp
       Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
2303   Written assignment I, 3,0 hp
       Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
2304   Written assignment II, 3,0 hp
       Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A