

SMMY21, 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 Studies on 2025-09-10 (STYR 2025/1953). The syllabus comes into effect 2025-09-10 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

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 study *Specialisation*

Service Management	A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements
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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 in-depth skills in collecting and creating empirical material,
- 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 subjects.

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 aims to provide students with the skills to understand the process from abstract formulation of objectives to concrete data collection/creation and analysis. The methods chosen are thus linked both to methodological starting points and to their practical implementation.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, excersises, workshops and seminars.

Participation in seminars is mandatory. Absence will be compensated with replacement activities later during the course or closely connected to the course.

Assessment

Assessment of the course is based on:

Written Assignments in Groups (6 credits), module code 2601

Individual Exam (9 credits), module code 2602

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.

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 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. Module code 2601 is excluded from the grading scale above. The grade for this module codes are either pass or fail.

To pass the course, students must receive a passing grade on module code 2601 and at least a grade E on module code 2602. Students who do not meet this requirement will receive a failing grade.

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.

Further information

This course replaces Methods in Social Sciences, SMMX21, 15 credits, and cannot be included in the same degree.