



Faculty of Social Sciences

## UTVC14, Theory of Science and Research Methods: An Introduction, 15 credits

*Utvecklingsstudier: Vetenskapsteori och forskningsmetod - en introduktion, 15 högskolepoäng*  
First Cycle / Grundnivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2011-11-17 to be valid from 2012-01-01, spring semester 2012.

### General Information

The course is offered as an interdisciplinary single subject course within the main field of study in Development Studies at the first-cycle level and as a compulsory course within the Bachelor's Programme in Development Studies.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

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*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

### Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, students shall be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of various approaches in the Theory of Science, especially their relevance for Social Science
- apply fundamental concepts in the Theory of Science to Social Science problems
- critically assess the uses and usefulness of major approaches in the Theory of Science in relation to research and/or working life
- demonstrate an understanding of major research methods and of the use of both quantitative and qualitative research
- identify the appropriate techniques for different kinds of research questions in Social Science
- critically assess the utility and appropriateness of diverse methods and techniques for the study of relevant research issues in Social Science.

## Course content

The course aims to give the student basic knowledge and understanding of the theory of science and research methods in Social Science. Hence the core of the course is presentations and critical discussions of major theories of science and their relevance to social sciences. It also introduces the student to the diverse research methods used in Social Science as well as their relevance for the study of contemporary Social Science research issues.

The first part presents major perspectives in the Theory of Science, especially those related to the Social Sciences. Basic scientific concepts, tools and terminology are introduced. The seminars focus on the application of course content to issues related to the uses and usefulness of the Theory of Science in research and working life.

The second part of the course is an introduction to qualitative and quantitative research methods and their uses, seen in relation to the issue of validity. Students reflect on Social Science problems assigned to them, applying their knowledge and skills to current issues of development during the seminars. They learn how to pose research questions and how to apply theories. Basic techniques for data collection and analyses of interviews, questionnaires, observation, and database material are introduced. Development of the skills required for both written and oral dissemination of results is also a key feature of this part of the course.

## Course design

Teaching consists of a combination of lectures and seminars. Active participation is required and students are expected to make oral and written presentations at seminars, as continuous examination is applied.

## Assessment

In addition a written exam will conclude the course. Re-examination will be offered within five weeks after the end of the course. If necessary, a second re-examination will be arranged at a later date.

*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 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 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 of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the

student must have shown unacceptable results.

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**

General requirements and studies equivalent of course English 6 from Swedish Upper Secondary School.

## **Further information**

In combination with UTV01, UTV02 and UTV03, this course gives access to the second term (level two) in Development Studies, Human Geography, Sociology, Political Science or Economic History.

Lund University will take disciplinary actions against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in examinations and assessments, e g plagiarism. The penalty that may be imposed unfair practices in examinations or assessments includes suspension from the University.

## Subcourses in UTV C14, Theory of Science and Research Methods: An Introduction

Applies from V12

1101 Theory of Science and Research Methods: An Introduction, 15,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A