



Faculty of Social Sciences

## UTVC16, Development Studies: Research Methods in Development Studies, 15 credits

*Utvecklingsstudier: Forskningsmetod i utvecklingsstudier, 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 a compulsory course within the program Bachelor in Development Studies within the main field of study of Human Geography.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

Human Geography

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, participants shall be able to

- show knowledge and understanding of the theory of science and how this is related to the formulation of research problems within the social sciences
- show knowledge and understanding of social science methods and their role in the research process as a whole
- demonstrate basic proficiency in formulating a research problem within Development Studies and choosing relevant methods when designing a research project
- demonstrate basic proficiency in considering ethical aspects when designing a research project in a developing context
- show knowledge and understanding of the advantages and shortcomings of different methods for data collection and analysis
- demonstrate basic proficiency in qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection and analysis

## Course content

The course aims at giving the student basic knowledge, understanding of and proficiency in social science methods for data collection and analysis as well as of how to design social science research within the field of Development Studies.

The course is divided into two parts.

### Part one –Research design, 7.5 credits

Part one focuses on how to design a research project in a developing context and provides an overview of methodological issues to be considered in this respect. It offers more in-depth knowledge in social science research methods which will both enhance students' ability to critically review research in development studies and to plan such research themselves. The aim is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of major qualitative and quantitative methods in the research process as a whole. The formulation of research problems and how to design a research project is a major focus of the course. For this purpose an introduction to the theory of science is given. A number of quantitative and qualitative methods are discussed, with a special focus on comparative methods and case studies. Ethical considerations in relation to the choice of various research methods are discussed.

### Part two –Methods in practise, 7.5 credits

The aim of part two is to provide a comprehensive understanding of how major qualitative and quantitative methods are used for data collection and analysis in the social sciences, as well as the necessary practical skills required for their application. Advantages and shortcomings of different methods, as well as how to choose between them, is analysed and discussed. Methods for data collection covered include surveys, focus groups, participatory methods and interviews. The course also provides an introduction to work with statistical databases as well as archive material. Covered methods for data analysis include discourse and content analysis, coding, visual matching and basic statistical methods such as averages, correlation and bivariate regression. Here the course participants are introduced to rudimentary statistical software.

## Course design

Teaching consists of a combination of lectures, seminars and practical exercises both individually and in groups. Active participation is required and continuous examination is applied. In addition, a written exam will conclude part two of the course.

## Assessment

This final exam will build on drafts presented in part one "Research Design" and will consist of completing a research plan or application for a research project, initiated as

part of the examination for the preceding course in research design. This section of the plan or application will cover methods for the collection and analysis of data, including an evaluation of the chosen methods with regard to their feasibility and correspondence to the research question.

In connection with the course students are offered three examinations, a regular examination, a re-examination and one additional re-examination. Within one year after the course, students are offered a minimum of two additional re-examinations. Thereafter, more examinations are offered but in accordance with current course content.

The University views plagiarism very seriously, and will take disciplinary actions against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practice in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University.

*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 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

To be eligible for the course requires that 75 per cent of the course work, or the equivalent, for the first and second year of the programme has been completed.

## Further information

The course is offered as a compulsory course within the program Bachelor in Development Studies within the main field of study of Human Geography.

## Subcourses in UTV C16, Development Studies: Research Methods in Development Studies

Applies from H12

1101 Development Studies: Research Methods in Development Studies, 15,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A