



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

SOCM04, Sociology: Master's (Two years) Thesis, 30 credits

Sociologi: Examensarbete för masterexamen, 30 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2011-11-17 and was last revised on 2019-05-23 by the board of the Department of Sociology. The revised syllabus applies from 2020-01-20, spring semester 2020.

General Information

The course can be included in a Master of Science (120 credits) degree specialising in Sociology.

Language of instruction: Swedish and English

Main field of studies

Sociology

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the students shall independently be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate advanced knowledge of theories and the construction of theory in the field of sociology
- demonstrate advanced knowledge in sociological methodology
- identify and formulate sociological research problems
- assimilate, analyse, critically review and compare theoretical texts
- demonstrate insight into different sociological issues and problems in modern society, for example processes of social change, social structures and patterns of social interaction

Competence and skills

- plan and, using appropriate theories and methods, undertake and present an independent research project as well as evaluate their own research work
- perform a critical review of another independent research project
- demonstrate the ability to express, communicate and discuss, nationally and internationally, acquired knowledge and skills both orally and in writing with different audiences.
- demonstrate knowledge about scientific channels of communication, and be able to monitor the academic development within their field of study

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of sociology and its role in society
- identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning

Course content

The aim of the course is to provide students with advanced knowledge of sociological theory and research methods and a good ability to participate in research and development or work in other qualified contexts.

The main component of the course is the student's' composition of a master's thesis. Major emphasis is placed on the student's ability to independently identify and formulate a sociological problem and actively follow the development and research in the field of enquiry. The course ends with final seminars, where the master's thesis is defended and each student critically review a fellow student's thesis.

Course design

The student is entitled to supervision during the writing process. The supervisor provides the student with advice and views on the design of the thesis project, but the student is responsible for its completion. The period of supervision is limited to the semester when the student first registered for the course. Exceptions are only possible if there is a specific reason for this. The completed thesis is to be reviewed and discussed at a final seminar by a specially appointed critical reviewer.

Assessment

The assessment is mainly based on the quality of the finished master's thesis, but also to some extent on the student's thesis defense and critical review of a fellow student's thesis.

The thesis is to be registered in an Open Access database belonging to Lund University. Each student determines their own level of publication.

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 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 Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have a Bachelor's degree in Sociology or equivalent. In addition, students must have at least 30 credits in the discipline of sociology or equivalent, including SOCN03 Sociology: Classical and Contemporary Theory or equivalent amounting to 15 credits, at least 15 credits of methodology in the social sciences, of which 7.5 credits in qualitative methods and 7.5 credits in quantitative methods. Furthermore, students must have another 15 credits in methodology in the social sciences and/or theory of science, of which at least 7.5 credits in theory science. All of the credits must be from the second cycle (master) level.

Further information

The course corresponds to SOCM02 Sociology: Master's (Two Years) Thesis, 30 credits.

Subcourses in SOCM04, Sociology: Master's (Two years) Thesis

Applies from V12

- 1101 Master Thesis, 30,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1102 Discussant, 0,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass