



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

EU2340 Research methods for European Studies, 15 higher education credits

Forskningsmetoder i Europakunskap, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2011-09-28 and was last revised on 2015-10-22 by Department of Political Science to be valid from 2016-01-18, spring semester of 2016.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Political Science

Position in the educational system

The methodology course Research Methods for European Studies, 15 higher education credits, is given within the Master's Programme in European Studies and is a compulsory course. The course may also be taken as a free-standing course if space is available.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in European Studies (S2EUS)

Main field of studies

European Studies

Specialization

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

The requirement for admission to the course is completion of two core courses in the second cycle within the main field of European Studies (15 Hec), or equivalent.

Applicants must prove their knowledge of English: English 6/English B from Swedish Upper Secondary School or the equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS.

Learning outcomes

After completion of the course the student is expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Understand the power and limitations of various research methods;
- Evaluate the validity and reliability of secondary data sources;
- Evaluate and independently design data collection methods such as surveys, field experiments and interviews.

Skills and abilities

- Evaluate, specify and test hypotheses and explanatory models;
- Understand and apply quantitative methods such as regression analysis.

Judgement and approach

- Identify and assess ethical issues related to research on human behaviour;
- Design and plan an independent research project using quantitative and qualitative methods.

Course content

The course presents and offers practical training in methodological approaches relevant to the field of European Studies. The course will begin with an exploration of issues of general relevance to empirical investigation in the social sciences, such as epistemology, research design, research ethics, and an overview of research methods. In the second part of the course, the focus will be on specific research methods, with a specialisation on either quantitative or qualitative research methods.

The course consists of both lectures as well as instructor led hands on training in the use of research methods. To the extent possible, course assignments employ data relevant to European policy issues in order to familiarize students with the potential and limitations of existing data.

Form of teaching

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Progress on the learning outcomes related to knowledge and understanding as well as those related to judgement and approach will be evaluated through written and oral assignments that entail, among other things, evaluating existing policy research and

policy relevant data, as well as planning original data collection. Learning outcomes related to skills and abilities will be evaluated via written and oral assignments involving carrying out and presenting research results.

A student who has failed an assignment twice has the right to change examiner, if it is possible. A written application should be sent to the Department.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

In order to receive a passing grade, students must complete and receive a passing grade on all obligatory assignments in the course. To obtain Pass with distinction the work of the student should show a very good grasp of the logic and concepts related to research methodology, and demonstrate an ability to apply these to research projects. Moreover, Pass with Distinction also requires that the students work demonstrates a good, independent analytical ability and written assignments fulfil high academic standards in terms of structure and language.

Course evaluation

A written course evaluation will be conducted on the final day of the course. The results of the evaluation will be communicated to the students and will function as a guide for the development of the course. Any changes made in the course subsequent to students comments will be communicated both to previous and incoming students.