



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

EU4310 Research Methods in European Studies, 15 credits

Forskningsmetoder i europakunskap, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Political Science on 2016-06-10 and was last revised on 2019-08-23 to be valid from 2019-09-02, autumn semester of 2019.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Political Science

Position in the educational system

The course is a compulsory course given within the Executive Master's Programme of European Studies. The course is a method course.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Executive Master's Programme in European Studies (S2EUE)

Main field of studies

European Studies

Specialization

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

Students enrolled in the Executive Masters programme in European Studies are eligible for the course. 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

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate how various research methods are applicable to analyze research problems within the field of European Studies
- Identify issues of generalizability, validity and reliability related to various types of data sources

Competence and skills

- Design a study with the purpose to analyze research problems within the field of European Studies
- Apply qualitative and quantitative research methods to analyze various types of data
- Independently produce text in accordance with good academic practice, including proper citation technique and use of references

Judgement and approach

- Evaluate strength and weaknesses of various research methods and data sources
- Identify and assess ethical issues related to research in the social sciences

Course content

The course presents research approaches and offers practical training in research methods relevant to the field of European Studies. The first module of the course (5 credits) will focus on issues of general relevance to research in the social sciences, with particular focus on quantitative methods. The module will encourage students to develop methodological tools with relevance to their professional activities

The remaining four modules of the course will be integrated with the various substance courses of the program in four 2.5 credits modules. These will train the student in asking relevant research questions related to the substance of the courses, and select and apply relevant methods to be able to analyze research problems. The student will be guided to apply various methods across the modules to ensure that the student will get training in the broad arsenal of research methods in the social sciences (qualitative, quantitative, case studies, large scale data sets), and discover their advantages and weaknesses.

Form of teaching

The main format for the course is web-based distance learning, combined with campus-meetings.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The course is divided into five modules.

The first module comprises of 5 credits, and has two parts, with one examination each. The first part is assessed on the basis of one individually written assignment (2.5 credits). The second part is assessed on the basis of one individually written assignment in quantitative methods (2.5 credits).

The second module comprises 2.5 credits, and is assessed on the basis of an individually written assignment on quantitative analysis.

The third module comprises 2.5 credits, and is assessed on the basis of an individually written assignment on document analysis (2 credits), which is presented orally (0.5 credits).

The fourth module comprises 2.5 credits, and is assessed on the basis of an individually written assignment on interview analysis (2 credits), which is presented orally (0.5 credits).

The fifth module comprises 2.5 credits, and consists of an individually written assignment (2 credits) and oral presentation (0.5 credits).

It is not allowed to discuss answers and / or formulate answers to the assignments in collaboration with others. The assignments are to be carried out individually and if you cooperate with another student in an unauthorized way, it will be considered cheating.

Students can be asked to re-work graded assignments and re-submit them. If the student does not re-submit the reworked assignment on time, the student will be failed on the assignment.

A student who is not able to attend a compulsory part of the course can do an alternative assignment. The assignment will be described in the course guide.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

At least five occasions shall be offered the students to pass a course or part of a course (Chapter 6, Section 21 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given. This may not be in conflict with Chapter 6 Section 21 of Higher Education Ordinance.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). The course is divided into five modules. Grades are only given per module.

The first module comprises 5 credits and is divided in two parts.

- The first part is assessed on the basis of one individually written assignment (2.5 credits).
- The second part is assessed on the basis of one individually written assignment in quantitative methods (2.5 credits).

The two assignments are graded with Pass with Distinction, Pass and Fail. To receive the grade Pass (G) on these 5 credits, both assignments must be given Pass. To receive Pass with Distinction (VG), at least one of the assignments must be given Pass with Distinction and the other with Pass.

The second module comprises 2.5 credits. They are assessed on the basis of

- an individually written assignment (2,5 credits)

The written assignment is graded with Pass with Distinction, Pass and Fail.

The third, fourth and fifth modules comprises 2.5 credits each. They are assessed on the basis of

- an individually written assignment (2 credits)
- which is presented orally (0.5 credits)

Each written assignment is graded with Pass with Distinction, Pass and Fail. Each oral presentation is graded with Pass and Fail. To receive the grade Pass on one module both assignments must have the grade Pass. To receive Pass with Distinction on one module it is required that the written assignments is given Pass with Distinction and the the oral is given Pass.

To receive the grade pass on the course as a total, all exams must be passed. To get Pass with Distinction on the course as a total, it is required that a minimum of 7.5 credits out of 15 credits has the grade Pass with Distinction and the rest has the grade Pass.

To obtain the Pass grade the student must meet all the expectations in the learning outcomes. To obtain Pass with Distinction the work of the student should also show a very good ability to connect theoretical analyses to practical outcomes, a good, independent analytical ability and that written assignments fulfill high academic

standards in terms of structure and language.

Course evaluation

A written, anonymous course evaluation will be distributed, online, to the students at the end of the course. The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.