



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

GS2321 Research Design and Methods, 15 higher education credits

Research Design and Methods, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2007-11-05 and was last revised on 2016-06-07 by Department of Global Studies to be valid from 2016-06-07, autumn semester of 2016.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: School of Global Studies

Position in the educational system

The course is a methodology course in the Master's Programme in Global Studies. It can also be studied as a single subject course.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in Global Studies (S2GLS)

Main field of studies

Global Studies

Specialization

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

Entry requirements

A Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 30 higher education credits in a subject within the field of Global Studies, or equivalent competence. 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 successful completion of the course students shall be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- describe and differentiate between qualitative and quantitative methods and the kind of knowledge they produce, including the limitations attached to various methods;
- demonstrate how various ontological and epistemological assumptions shape research and methodological choices;

Skills and abilities

- use different methods for data collection and analysis;
- formulate a coherent research proposal, with well delimited research questions, connected to theory and operationalized into a coherent methodological design;

Judgement and approach

- independently and in a reflexive manner argue for the key considerations and dilemmas of different methodological choices;
- identify and critically reflect on reflexivity, biases and ethical considerations in relation to research.

Course content

This course consists of a general introduction addressing ontology, epistemology, research ethics and research design, focusing on how to formulate research questions, the role of theory and an overview of research methods explaining the different form of knowledge that various methods can provide. In addition to providing the tools for research design, the course provides more details on different, in particular qualitative, methods.

Form of teaching

The course will be taught through a mix of lectures, seminars, and several practical assignments.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Examination takes the form of designing a research proposal, practical and written assignments, as well as participation in seminars.

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).

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.

Grades

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

To be awarded a Pass grade for the course requires active participation in seminars and practical exercises and a Pass grade for the written assignments. To be awarded Pass with Distinction for the course requires active participation in seminars and practical exercises and the grade Pass with Distinction for the final written assignment (research proposal).

Course evaluation

The person/persons responsible for the course are required to ensure that student evaluations are regularly collected, communicated to the students and taken into account in the development of the course.