



## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

### **SF2323 Applied Qualitative Research Methods, problems and design, 15 credits**

Tillämpade kvalitativa forskningsmetoder, problem och design, 15 högskolepoäng  
*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Political Science on 2017-12-13 to be valid from 2018-11-07, autumn semester of 2018.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* Department of Political Science

#### **Position in the educational system**

The course is given as either a free-standing course or as part of a Master's Programme within the Faculty of Social Sciences. The course is a method course in the second cycle.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Master's Programme in Political Science (S2PSC), 2) Programme for Master in Sociology (S2SOC), 3) Master's Programme in Criminology (S2KRI), 4) European Studies Program (S1EUR), 5) Master's Programme in European Studies (S2EUS) and 6) Master's Programme in International Administration and Global Governance (S2IAG)

#### *Main field of studies*

Criminology

Political Science

Media and Communication Studies

European Studies

International Administration and Global Governance

#### *Specialization*

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

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Sociology

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

### **Entry requirements**

To be eligible for the course the student should have obtained a pass grade for a first cycle social sciences research methods course (at least 15 credits) and have obtained 15 credits from a second cycle core course in the social sciences, or the 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**

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

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of fundamental problems within theory of science, relevant for various fields of science.
- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of concepts relevant for qualitative research, including concepts such as interpretation, subjectivity, reflexivity and inter-related objectivity
- Display a good understanding of validity and reliability, as well as similar concepts, within qualitative research
- Show an advanced understanding of the reach and limitations of several qualitative research methods, as well as related design-problems
- Evaluate and argue for the fit between material with method, and independently design research using data collection methods, such as interviews, basic digital text analysis and manual collection of written and digital data
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of analytical tools and procedures in different qualitative research methods

#### *Competence and skills*

- Identify and assess ethical problems relevant for qualitative research
- Evaluate as well as independently formulate clear arguments concerning the relationship between theory and method, and apply arguments to a particular case
- Evaluate validity and reliability of research using qualitative methods
- Independently produce text in accordance with good academic practice, including proper citation technique and use of references
- Communicate clearly and proficiently in English both orally and in writing

*Judgement and approach*

- Design and plan an independent research project using qualitative research methods
- Independently analyze and interpret data collected with qualitative methods
- Apply theoretical frameworks to data collected with qualitative methods

**Course content**

The course presents and offers practical training in qualitative research methods, including data-collection, design, formulation of research problems, and methods for analysis of material. The course gives an initial overview over available research-methods, their connection to theory, as well as research ethics. The course focuses in-depth several different methodological approaches, relevant for qualitative research in the social sciences and humanities, with an emphasis on text-based analytical methods. The course develops methodological skills through case-based practices in seminars. In one part of the course, methods and design-problems are introduced and practiced in lectures and seminars. In a second part of the course, students apply knowledge of research design and methods on their own research interests, and produce a research proposal as final product.

**Form of teaching**

The course is taught in lectures, obligatory seminars and through individual and group-assignments.

*Language of instruction:* English

**Assessment**

Students will be evaluated based on their performance on written and oral assignments, in groups or individually, at five obligatory seminars, as well as on one final assignment. The final assignment is an independent research paper.

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.

Completion of examined assignments are permitted. If the student does not submit the completion on time, the student will be failed on the assignment.

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).

In order to receive the grade Pass (G), on the whole course, the student must have received a Pass (G) on all obligatory assignments. In order to receive a Pass with Distinction (VG) on the whole course, the student must have received a Pass with Distinction (VG) for the final assignment as well as a Pass (G) on all other obligatory assignments.

### **Course evaluation**

The student will be given the opportunity to do a course evaluation. 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.