



## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION AND LEARNING

### **HPA201 Research methods in teaching and learning in higher education, 15 credits**

Vetenskapliga metoder för högskolepedagogik, 15 högskolepoäng  
*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Education, Communication and Learning on 2023-02-03 and was last revised on 2023-11-23 to be valid from 2024-01-15, spring semester of 2024.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* Department of Education, Communication and Learning

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

The course may be included in a master's degree in teaching and learning in higher education.

#### *Main field of studies*

Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

#### *Specialization*

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

#### **Entry requirements**

Admission to the course requires awarded bachelor's degree of at least 180 credits or equivalent degree. Furthermore, the student must demonstrate proficiency in English equivalent English 6 (Swedish upper secondary school level) or English B with at least passed result or through an international test in English with requirements on lowest result: TOEFL paper: 575 or with computer: 213, or or a bachelor's degree that has been given in English.

#### **Learning outcomes**

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

*Knowledge and understanding*

describe and differentiate between qualitative and quantitative methods and the kind of knowledge they produce  
 demonstrate how ontological and epistemological assumptions influence research and methodological choices

*Competence and skills*

formulate a coherent research proposal, with well delimited research questions, connected to theory and operationalized into a coherent methodological design  
 describe the application of methods for data collection and analysis

*Judgement and approach*

critically reflect on the key considerations and dilemmas of different methodological choices  
 identify and critically reflect on ethical considerations in relation to research

**Course content**

The purpose of the course is to introduce relevant methodological approaches in the field of higher education research in terms of both their possibilities and limitations. The aim is to develop understanding of and skills in how research in the field of higher education can be formulated, planned, carried out and evaluated. Furthermore, the course addresses qualitative and quantitative methods for production and analysis of data. The course covers different quality criteria including validity and reliability; research-ethical guidelines and problems; principles of choice of research methodology and how results of research can be used by as a basis for organizational development in higher education.

**Form of teaching**

Lectures and seminars.

**Assessment**

Examining assignments:

1. Group assignment, oral presentation, 5 credits, grades Fail (U) or Pass (Pass).
2. Written individual course assignment and critical review of other course participant's individual course assignment, 10 credits, grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with distinction (VG).

If a student who has failed twice on the same examination wishes to change examiner before the next examination, such a request should be submitted in writing to the

department and must be approved unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If the student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for special pedagogical support, the examiner may, in the event that it is compatible with the objectives of the course and provided that not unreasonable resources are required, decide to give the student an adapted examination or alternative form of examination.

In case that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, the student shall be guaranteed access to at least three examination opportunities (including the regular examination opportunity) during a period of at least one year, but at the most two years after the course has ceased or undergone major changes. Regarding internship and placements, the equivalent applies but limited to only one additional examination session.

### **Grades**

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

Course assignments:

Group assignment, oral presentation, 5 credits, can be given grade Pass (G) and Fail (U).

Individual course assignment, written and oral in the form of a critical review of other course participant's individual course assignment, 10 credits, can be given grade Pass with distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). To receive grades Pass with distinction (VG), required pass on Group assignment, 5 credits and Pass with distinction (VG) on the individual course assignment, 10 credits, are required.

### **Course evaluation**

The results of the evaluation and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and new students who are starting the course.

### **Additional information**

The course is carried out in English and at distance. By agreement with examiner, certain assignments can also be carried out in Swedish.