



## DEPARTMENT OF PEDAGOGICAL, CURRICULAR AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

### **PDA109 The field of action research, 15 credits**

Aktionsforskning som forskningsfält, 15 högskolepoäng

*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Education and Special Education on 2011-03-28 and was last revised on 2022-10-24 by Department of Pedagogical, Curricular and Professional Studies to be valid from 2023-01-16, spring semester of 2023.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* Department of Pedagogical, Curricular and Professional Studies

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

The course can be given as a freestanding course.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Nordic Master's Programme in Education with orientation towards Action Research (S2PEA)

#### *Main field of studies*

General Didactics

Education

#### *Specialization*

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

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#### **Entry requirements**

Bachelor's degree with 180 credits in the main field of study teaching and learning, teaching and learning and didactics or teaching qualification with at least 180 ECTS or degree from a human resource management programme with 180 ECTS give entry requirements.

Furthermore, a pass grade on one of the courses *Action research and school development*, (PDA104) or *Methods for the Development of Teaching* (DID502) or a course with

equivalent content is required.

### **Learning outcomes**

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

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- state different scientific traditions and place action research among these traditions,
- describe the characteristics of action research in relation to other research in social studies,
- describe knowledge that has been acquired through studies in action research with relevance for educational sciences.

#### *Competence and skills*

- seek information in databases in order to distinguish, describe and problematize some central aspects in the Nordic tradition within the field of action research,
- developed presentations and argumentation through response and dialogue.

#### *Judgement and approach*

- argue for the value of action research relatively other scientific traditions,
- take position to questions about ethics and social relevance as regards research in the field of educational sciences.

### **Course content**

In the course the first part gives an historical overview of different specialisations within action research that, in turn, can be connected to specific action alternatives. The specialisations are treated in relation to scientific theoretical assumptions to provide an orientation of the placement of action research among scientific traditions. The second part position the Nordic action research in relation to the international field of action research. A special focus is directed towards Nordic action research where the connection between studies in labour sciences and educational sciences are of particular

concern. Ethical considerations as well as the relevance of action research studies is highlighted and problematized. The course also comprises the collaborative conversation as an expression for democratic knowledge formation.

### **Form of teaching**

Forms of teaching in the course is lectures, seminars and literature seminars.

*Language of instruction:* Swedish

Parts of teaching and lectures in the Nordic languages and English may occur.

### **Assessment**

The first topic of the course (theory of knowledge) is examined through a compulsory seminar where individual written bases are presented and discussed in small groups where other students are to give response to the arguments presented by the individual student in relation to the assignment. The second topic is examined through a compulsory written take-home exam in groups where a mapping of Nordic studies in action research is carried out on the basis of database searches.

On all examination occasions, supplementation of the examination assignment is allowed where required. Completion must be submitted within two weeks of the regular examination. Students who have not been able to attend compulsory examinations will receive an alternative examination assignment.

A student has the right to a change of examiner, if this is practically possible, if s/he has failed the same exam twice. The application shall be sent to the board of the department and has to be in writing.

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

In the case the course has undergone major changes, the student must be guaranteed at least three examination opportunities (including regular examination opportunity) for a period of at least one year, however, no later than two years after the course has ended / changed

### **Grades**

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

For the grade Pass (G), it is required that the student with a passed result has completed all elements that form the basis for examination. For the course grade Pass with Distinction (VG), in addition to passing all elements that form the basis for examination, it is required that the individual written assignment is assessed with the grade Pass with Distinction (VG).

**Course evaluation**

Course evaluation is done in relation to the course's learning objectives and content and is carried out at the end of the course through an individual written questionnaire on the course's learning platform. Results and any changes in the course structure shall be communicated to the students who completed the course evaluation and to the students who are to begin the course.

**Additional information**

Web-based information and communication via the learning platform is used and access to a computer with an Internet connection is required.