



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

PDA115 Educational Research Method: Observation, 5 credits

Utbildningsvetenskaplig forskningsmetod: Observation, 5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Education and Special Education on 2012-02-12 to be valid from 2014-02-12.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Education and Special Education

Position in the educational system

The course is given as a freestanding course at second cycle level.

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

Pedagogy/Theory of Education

Specialization

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

Entry requirements

For admission to the course a degree of Bachelor (180 credits) with at least 60 credits in the subject teaching and learning, or the equivalent, is required.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- account for the principles of design and analysis of observation research including its philosophic basis, as well as different forms for observation and selection procedure
- critically analyse literature in relation to the methodologies of observation research

Competence and skills

- plan and develop observation design for ethnographic research projects
- collect and analyse the data from ethnographic observations
- orally present the result from an observational study and in a scientific way discuss conclusions and positions
- produce a scientific paper about the research methodology and apply established rules for quotation and a correct scientific language style

Judgement and approach

- problematise the method and take a critical reflective approach
- account for the ethical aspects regarding observation research

Course content

The course offers advanced knowledge of observation as educational science research methodology. In the course, studies of course literature that specifically treats theory and principles of observation as research methodology are included. The course covers different observation techniques. The course also includes field studies and other assignments for the practising of the research method.

The course is a distance course and contains course material that has been adapted particularly for distance education, such as e.g. computer-based exercises that have been designed specifically for the contents of the course. These exercises include highlighting examples of analyses from observational studies and practical observation exercises that the student should carry out and present.

Form of teaching

To what extent the student has achieved the aims of the course is tested through the following examination assignments: construct an observation design, plan and carry out observations as well as present in an individual paper. The basis of assessment should be such that individual achievements should be distinguishable.

The number of examination sessions is limited to five. The student has (if it is practically possible) the right to change of examiner after having failed the same examination twice. The application shall be sent to the board of the department and has to be in writing.

In case the course ceases or goes through a major change the student is to be guaranteed access to at least three examination sessions (including regular examination session) during a period of a year based on the earlier set-up of the course.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Assessment**Grades**

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

Course evaluation

A course evaluation is made in relation to the expected learning outcomes and contents of the course and underlies the planning of future courses. A written summative course evaluation is carried out at the end of the course through an individual written questionnaire on the university's learning management system. A compilation of the evaluation is forwarded to the student group involved and is also made available for students who intend to start the course.

Additional information

Norwegian, Danish and English occur in the literature and can occur in the teaching.

Participation assumes basic computer experience as well as access to computer online internet connection