



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND WORK SCIENCE

PV2301 Research Theories and Methods, 15 credits

Forskningsmetoder, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2009-10-13 and was last revised on 2019-11-15 by Department of Sociology and Work Science to be valid from 2020-01-19, spring semester of 2020.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Sociology and Work Science

Position in the educational system

The course is a programme course given within the Master Programme in Strategic Human Resource Management within the Faculty of Social Sciences. The course is a methodology course.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in Strategic Human Resource Management and Labour Relations (S2HRM)

Main field of studies

Strategic Human Resource Management
and Labour Relations

Specialization

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

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course, the student must be accepted to the Master Programme in Strategic Human Resource Management within the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

After completion of the course the student is expected to able to:

1. Discuss and analyze relevant methods and theories related to research and development work within the field of Strategic Human Resource Management and Labour relations

Skills and abilities

After completion of the course the student is expected to able to:

2. Formulate research questions in the framework of Strategic Human Resource Management and Labour relations, and work out possible research designs
3. Analyse interview data by qualitative coding and grounded theory coding, and discuss possibilities for generalizations
4. Use advanced statistical methods like regressions and factor analyses and critically evaluate the methods and discuss its validity and reliability

Judgement and approach

After completion of the course the student is expected to able to:

5. Critically and independently evaluate the quality of studies founded on qualitative methods respectively quantitative methods and reflect upon different ethical attitudes

Course content

The course aims at providing students with deeper knowledge about research theories and methods in social science. The course deals with both qualitative and quantitative methods. After completing the course the students are expected to be able to critically evaluate research results conducted by others, and to independently design and carry out their own research projects using advanced research methods. The course is organized in two sub-courses:

Sub-course 1: Qualitative Analyses (Kvalitativa analyser) 7,5 higher education credits

The first sub-course focuses on qualitative methods, design, data collection and analyses. Students develop a research proposal, engage in data collection and analyse qualitative material. This course enables students to evaluate qualitative research, design and carry out qualitative projects of their own.

Sub-course 2: Quantitative Analyses (Kvantitativa analyser) 7,5 higher education credits

The second sub-course deals with advanced quantitative methods with focus on multivariate analyses. Departing from a research question, the student will put different methods into practice by using survey data and register data. The sub-course emphasizes the analyses of quantitative data, its validity and reliability.

Form of teaching

Forms of teaching used in this course include: lectures, seminars, workshops and written exercises. The student will also collect some empirical data.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Each sub-course will be examined by an individual home-exam. All seminars are part of the examination and are mandatory.

A student who has failed a seminar assignment or exam may get the possibility to do a complementary addition to achieve Pass.

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).

In order to be awarded Pass for the whole course students must have at least Pass for both examinations. In order to be awarded Pass with Distinction for the full course, students must have Pass with Distinction for both sub-courses.

Course evaluation

It is a department responsible for the course that is to provide evaluations and to have the results processed. The results of the course evaluations are to be made accessible to students. Processed results should be made available no later than eight weeks from the end of course.

Additional information

All lectures, seminars, exercises and tests will be held in English.