



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

PX2311 Psychology: Qualitative Research Methods, 15 credits

Psykologi: Kvalitativa forskningsmetoder, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Psychology on 2016-10-13 and was last revised on 2020-09-09 to be valid from 2021-01-18, spring semester of 2021.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Psychology

Position in the educational system

The course is delivered as a free standing, second cycle course.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in Psychology with Specialization in Societal Psychology (S2PSA)

Main field of studies

Psychology

Specialization

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

Entry requirements

For entry to the course, completion of university education of at least 180hp is required, of which at least 60hp are in psychology. Furthermore, knowledge of elementary statistics and social science research methods is required (15 hp), or the equivalent thereof.

Language skills equivalent to Swedish B/Swedish 3 and English A/English 5 are also required.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- Account for and explain central concepts and scientific perspectives within the qualitative research tradition.
- Account for different types of qualitative analysis methods and relate them to each other.

Competence and skills

- Develop an interview guide, and conduct and transcribe both individual interviews and group interviews.
- Demonstrate familiarity and skill with different qualitative analysis methods.
- Use different types of qualitative methods and complete a qualitative analysis under supervision.
- Communicate results from a project, both orally and in writing, in which qualitative methods have been used.
- Apply the principles of research ethics in the research project's different stages, including data collection, analysis and presentation of data.

Judgement and approach

- Critically review and evaluate scientific work in which qualitative methods are the primary method of analysis.

Course content

Sub-courses

*Sub-courses***1. Theories of qualitative research methods** (*Kvalitativa forskningsmetoder - teoretisk del*), 7.5 credits

Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)

This course uses a basic approach, which emphasizes methodological diversity, with aims and research questions defining the choice of appropriate methods for data collection and data analysis. The course is focused on psychological research questions suitable for qualitative data collection and qualitative methods. Study of the integration of qualitative and quantitative methods is also addressed. Different assumptions (ontological and epistemological), on which qualitative research methods are based, are also covered. Different methods for collecting data (individual interviews, group interviews, focus groups), interpretation and analysis, as well as approaches to summarizing and reporting results are covered. Course participants are given knowledge, via the course literature, about planning, data collection, choice of analysis method, and form of presentation for qualitative studies. A critical review is done with consideration of implementation, quality and

knowledge of articles which build on different qualitative methods.

2. Qualitative methods applied (*Praktisk tillämpning av kvalitativa forskningsmetoder-Projektarbete*), 7.5 credits

Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)

This course involves the practical application of knowledge communicated during sub-course 1. By completing a project, the course participants gain experience of the research process's different phases, from problem formulation via research design, to analysis and interpretation of results. Course participants formulate a psychologically relevant research question suitable for qualitative methods, and complete data collection and analysis under supervision. The project is summarized in a written report, which is then reviewed by the course participants and the teacher.

Form of teaching

Teaching takes place in the form of lectures, seminar exercises and supervision. All teaching occasions, except the lectures, are obligatory. Some parts of the course cannot be compensated for, without active participation.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Assessment

The course is examined through seminars, oral examination (in a group), and individual written assignments. All teaching can form the basis for the examination.

Sub-course 1 is examined through participation in the obligatory classes, as well as written home assignments.

Sub-course 2 is examined through a written assignment in the form of a report, as well as participation in supervision, and a final review of the projects completed on the course.

Obligatory parts of the course include seminars, exercises, individual assignments, group assignments, supervision, as well as assessments. Compensation for absence is made according to the course coordinator's instructions. In some instances, students may be referred to the equivalent class on the next occasion that the course takes place.

A student who has taken two examinations in a course or a part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner, unless there are special reasons to the contrary (HF 6 chap. 22§). Such a request should be made in writing to the department responsible for the course.

In the event that a course ceases/undergoes major changes, in normal circumstances the student should be guaranteed at least three examination opportunities (including the

ordinary examination opportunity) within a period of at least one year using the course's previous layout.

Grades

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

To receive a final result of Pass (G), the following is required: a Pass (G) grade on both the written exam and the project, and active participation in the obligatory seminars and exercises.

To receive a final result of Pass with Distinction (VG), the following is required: a Pass with Distinction (VG) on the written examination and the project, and activate participation in the obligatory seminars and exercises is required.

Course evaluation

The course coordinator is responsible for ensuring that students are given the opportunity to provide an anonymous, written course evaluation at the end of the course. After the course is finished, the course coordinator writes a report, which includes a summary of the course evaluation. The report is processed in the working group for free standing, second cycle courses, and will be communicated to those students who completed the course evaluation, as well as the students who will start the course. These reports will be made available for students.