



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND WORK SCIENCE

SC2501 MA-Thesis in Sociology, 30 credits

Examensarbete för master i sociologi, 30 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2006-11-20 and was last revised on 2023-11-10 by Department of Sociology and Work Science to be valid from 2024-01-15, spring semester of 2024.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Sociology and Work Science

Position in the educational system

The course is a second-cycle advance course.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Programme for Master in Sociology (S2SOC)

Main field of studies

Sociology

Specialization

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires a bachelor's degree in social science and a passing grade in second-cycle courses corresponding to at least 45 higher education credits in sociology, of which at least 15 credits for an advanced course and 15 credits in research methods. Language skills equivalent to English B/English 6, for example equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS, are also required.

Learning outcomes

After completing the course, the student shall be able to present and defend a degree project with a clear and precise specialisation. The student shall demonstrate through

their work a significant level of knowledge and a basis in theory and research within the sociological area of knowledge and also be able to describe and analyse social phenomena with high methodological and analytical skill and independence.

Specifically the student shall be able to:

- delimit, formulate and perform a research task relevant to theory within the area and for the issue chosen, with a high level of independence and within given time frames;
- identify their need for further knowledge and by using adequate methods search for, compile and process empirical material relating to a social phenomenon, and also demonstrate a capacity to systemically integrate knowledge and analyse complex phenomena and issues;
- conduct their own independent high-quality assessments of research and development work considering relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects and also demonstrate those skills required to be able to participate in development work and independent work in other qualified national and international contexts;
- independently write and defend an academic paper that has a clear basis in sociological and other social scientific research and that contributes to knowledge in the field of study;
- independently conduct a public discussion and examination and position the work of others in a wider theoretical perspective.

Course content

The course basically comprises the student implementing an investigation and writing an essay for 30 credits under the the guidance of a supervisor. Supervision comprises primarily of meetings where the student's text basis is commented on and discussed. In an initial phase the supervisor can also assist with the focus of the essay, research questions and structure.

Form of teaching

Teaching on the course is mainly in the form of tutoring. However, lectures, seminars, and other forms of teaching may also occur.

Language of instruction: English

Written assignments may be submitted in English or Swedish.

Assessment

The examination of the course takes place by the student writing an independent scientific work that is presented and discussed at a seminar. During the seminar, students defend their work and also review other students' corresponding work.

A student who has taken two exams in a course or part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner. The student needs to contact the department for a new examiner, preferably in writing, and this should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years, after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to placements and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). Grading criteria are communicated in the course guide (or equivalent), and the assessment is communicated as a written examination protocol.

Course evaluation

The course coordinator ensures that course participants are given the opportunity to carry out a course evaluation. A summary of the results and any changes to the course shall be made available to the students who carried out the course evaluation and to the students who will start the course.