



## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND WORK SCIENCE

### **SC2501 MA-Thesis in Sociology, 30 credits**

Examensarbete för master i sociologi, 30 högskolepoäng

*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2006-11-20 and was last revised on 2017-11-24 by Department of Sociology and Work Science to be valid from 2018-09-03, autumn semester of 2018.

*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**

The following is required for admission to the course:

Degree of Bachelor of at least 60 higher education credits in sociology and also a pass grade for second-level courses corresponding to at least 45 higher education credits in sociology, of which at least 15 higher education credits for an advance course and 15 higher education credits in method, or corresponding knowledge. English 6/English B or the equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS.

### **Learning outcomes**

General: 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. This is done under the supervision of a supervisor who holds a Ph.D. with an appropriate competence profile in the Department. Supervision comprises meetings where the student's text basis is commented on and discussed. At the introductory phase the supervisor can also assist with the focus of the essay, research questions and structure. Alongside this, there is some scheduled teaching where aspects such as problem definition, academic acrobatics and argumentation are reviewed by the teacher managing the course.

### **Form of teaching**

*Language of instruction:* English

Written assignments may be submitted in English or Swedish.

**Assessment**

The intended learning outcome achieved will be considered at a special examination in the form of a seminar, when the essay will be reviewed by an opponent and the author of the essay can verbally defend his work. Intended learning outcomes are also reviewed by the author of the essay having to conduct a review and structure an oral public debate and examination at a final seminar. The essay work and public debate and examination will always be assessed by a specially appointed examiner. Assessment criteria are indicated by a specially provided standard form. The course includes certain compulsory components. Students who have received two fail grades for the same examination are entitled to request a change of examiner. This request shall be made in writing. The Department has to approve such a request where practicable.

**Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). Students shall be given the grading criteria at the start of the course.

**Course evaluation**

The course director is responsible for students being afforded an opportunity to conduct a written course evaluation during the course or at the end of the course if feasible. A discussion should also be held between teachers, examiners and student representatives to the extent that this is practically feasible. The Director of Studies shall be provided with a summarised form of minutes or notes from this discussion. The way in which the results of the evaluation are to be used shall be documented when planning ensuing course. A summary of the results of previous evaluations shall also be made available via the website or in some other way.

**Additional information**

Gender equality, equal opportunities and cultural diversity shall be taken into account in the content, literature and evaluation. International and multicultural circumstances, together with sustainable development, shall be illustrated in the content and literature. If changes are made to the content and/or literature of the course, an examination may be held in accordance with this course syllabus within one year of the change. It is subsequently reviewed in each individual case whether an examination may be held in accordance with the older course syllabus. If the course completely ceases, an examination may be held within two years from the last time the course was given. A review will subsequently be conducted in each individual case as to whether an examination may be held.