



## DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

### **SIK230 Advanced Research Essay, 15 credits**

Självständigt arbete på magisternivå, 15 högskolepoäng

*Second Cycle*

---

#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Languages and Literatures on 2016-02-29 and was last revised on 2023-01-26 to be valid from 2023-08-28, autumn semester of 2023.

*Field of education:* Arts 100%

*Department:* Department of Languages and Literatures

#### **Position in the educational system**

The course is given within the scope of the Master programme of Language and Intercultural communication (120 credits). A completed course is part of a Master's degree (60 or 120 credits) in the chosen main field of study.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in Language and Intercultural Communication (H2SIK)

#### *Main field of studies*

English

African Languages

Russian

French

#### *Specialization*

A1E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)

A1E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)

A1E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)

A1E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)

*Main field of studies*

Chinese

German

Spanish

Arabic

Japanese

*Specialization*

A1E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)

A1E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)

A1E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)

A1E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)

A1E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)

**Entry requirements**

To be admitted to the course, students must have completed the programme-specific course Language and intercultural communication, SIK220, 7.5 credits. SPL230, Academic writing, must also be completed.

**Learning outcomes**

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

*Knowledge and understanding*

- show good knowledge of central linguistic issues, concepts and theories in current research with special focus on intercultural communication;
- critically and systematically integrate knowledge as well as handle, analyse and assess material and questions about language and intercultural communication;
- show knowledge and understanding of the linguistic bases, theories and methods of the main field of study as well as the linguistic research and development in the field;

*Competence and skills*

- independently distinguish and formulate the aim of the work and write an academic thesis in a critical, independent and analytical way and in correct academic language;

- search, collect and handle material and information as well as specify a problem formulation so that the work can be carried out within the stipulated time;
- choose appropriate working methods, carry out scholarly analyses in accordance with subject-specific requirements and show good argumentation ability and stringency;
- critically discuss, evaluate and present this work, both orally and in writing, in different contexts;

#### *Judgement and approach*

- account for and discuss previously established knowledge and arguments that form the basis of the thesis;
- make assessments with regard to relevant scholarly, social and ethical aspects;
- account for how results of the study contribute to knowledge development and demonstrate an understanding of the role of knowledge in society;
- problematise the limitations and possibilities of linguistics and languages for intercultural communication as well as their role in society and the responsibility of people for how they are used;
- identify his/her need of additional knowledge and of developing his/her competence.

#### **Course content**

In the course, the students, with supervision and in correct academic language, independently carry out and defend a linguistic research assignment in the chosen main field of study in the form of a written scholarly thesis that treats a subject in the field of language and intercultural communication. The work should be based on problem formulations that have been discussed with the supervisor and relevant theories and methods should be applied.

#### **Form of teaching**

Seminars and individual supervision.

*Language of instruction:* English

#### **Assessment**

The course is assessed through written work, which must also be defended at a seminar. In addition, the student should also publicly discuss other students' work. Furthermore, the student should participate at a joint final seminar for the whole programme where the work is presented and discussed.

A student who has failed a course item is eligible for a retake exam/assignment. In connection with written assignments, supplementary assignments may be offered in order for the student to achieve a Pass grade. Such a supplementary assignment should

be done within the stipulated time (normally five working days after the result has been posted). Otherwise a Fail grade will be reported.

A student who has completed an exam/assignment with a passing grade is not eligible for a retake for the purpose of receiving a higher grade. Nor may a student withdraw a test/assignment once it has been submitted for the purpose of avoiding receiving a grade for the work.

A student who has taken two examinations in a course or a part of a course without obtaining a passing 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.

If the University of Gothenburg has decided that a student is eligible for special study support, the examiner may, provided it is compatible with the aim of the course and it can be done within the scope of available resources, decide to offer the student an adjusted examination or a different examination format.

If the course has been discontinued or substantially revised, a student should be guaranteed to sit the examination on at least three occasions (including the ordinary examination occasion) during a period of at least one year, but not later than two years after the course was discontinued or revised. As regards internships/placement the same as above applies, with the exception that examination is offered on only one occasion.

*If you do not finish your essay: about supervision, examination and re-registration*

1. Supervision of essays is linked to the term when a student is registered on the course for the first time. Supervision can be done individually or in a group. Hours for supervision are allotted at the course introduction for the term in question.
2. If students are unable to finish their essays within the course period, they must notify the Director of Studies as soon as possible in order to save any remaining supervision for the next course opportunity. Such a notification must be given before the course ends. If no notification is given, the supervision will be regarded as forfeited and the students only have the right to be examined in connection with later examination occasions.
3. Any remaining supervision that has been saved according to point 2. can be used during the six (6) subsequent terms from the first occasion when the student registered on the course. Saved supervision may only be used during one and the same term. After that, students only have the right to have their essays examined in connection with a re-registration on the course. A student may be given a new supervisor when the remaining supervision is used.
4. Students who have saved supervision according to point 2 and who intend to use it in connection with a later course opportunity, need to notify the Director of Studies for the subject in question no later than 20 April (before the Autumn term) or 20 October (for

the Spring term). This also applies in case a student wishes to use supervision the following term after the first course opportunity.

5. To be able to use remaining supervision according to points 2-4, students must re-register on a course opportunity when the saved supervision is to be given. Students must also re-register on a course opportunity to have their essays examined.

6. In the event of unforeseen circumstances such as illness, saved supervision that a student has planned to use according to point 4, may be postponed by agreement with the Director of Studies/Study Counsellor.

7. For students who registered on the course before points 1-6 came into effect (Spring Term 2022), the right to supervision is assessed on an individual basis.

### **Grades**

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

### **Course evaluation**

The students are given the opportunity to make a written evaluation of the course. The results of the evaluation are published digitally

### **Additional information**

In the main fields of study of English, French, Spanish and German, the independent thesis must be written in the respective language. In African languages, Arabic, Japanese, Chinese or Russian as the main field of study, the thesis must be written in English.

Equality aspects should be taken in consideration in content, literature, teaching and evaluation.