



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

SW2560 Social Science Research Methods, 7.5 credits

Samhällsvetenskaplig metod, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Social Work on 2021-03-22 and was last revised on 2023-04-11 to be valid from 2023-08-29, autumn semester of 2023.

Field of education: Social Sciences 50% and Medicine 50%

Department: Department of Social Work

Position in the educational system

The course is an advanced course at second cycle level and is included in Master of Science in Health Care Counselling program (60 credits).

The course is a programme course in the master's programme in social work.

The course can also be taken as a freestanding course

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Programme for Master of Social Science with a Major in Social Work (S2SOA) and 2) Master of Science in Health Care Counselling (S2HSK)

Main field of studies

Social Work

Specialization

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course, a 210 credit Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work, a 180 credit Degree of Bachelor in social work, or a Bachelor Degree in another closely related field is required. In addition, completed advanced courses at the second cycle level in social work are required of at least 30 credits (this is included in the social work program of 210 credits) or equivalent knowledge.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- give an account of and reflect on different scientific theoretical views
- thoroughly give an account of various types of designs and understand how the scientific issue influences choice of research design
- thoroughly give an account of and understand how qualitative and quantitative methods can be used in research.
- thoroughly give an account of the research process from problem formulation to scientific report
- thoroughly give an account of ethical guidelines of importance to research in social work

Competence and skills

- use and evaluate different types of qualitative methods in research
- use and evaluate different types of quantitative methods in research
- critically review and reflect on issues design, results etc in theses and scientific articles

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate good ability to independently apply a critical scientific approach
- demonstrate a good ability to read research publications critically
- demonstrate a good ability to reflect over-research-ethical questions and considerations

Course content

The course initially provides a review of some scientific theoretical directions. The course thereafter provides an advanced review and application of some for the field relevant research methodologies. The course also presents ethical aspects in research and the importance of an ethical approach in research. The purpose of the course is to prepare the students for independent research project and to provide tools to evaluate critically and to be able to relate to scientific results.

Form of teaching

Teaching is provided in the form of lectures and seminars.

The language of education is mainly Swedish, but certain lectures in English may occur. The reading list is to some extent constituted by English-speaking literature.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Assessment

The intended learning outcomes of the course are examined through participation in four compulsory seminars/laboratory sessions. At these seminars, active participation is required, that the student prepares for the seminars and present their works in groups. The seminars are graded the with the grading scale Pass or Fail. In case of absence or non active participation in examination seminars/laboratory sessions are required written supplementary assignment. In case of absence from three or more seminars retesting are not enough, and the seminar must be redone at the next course instance.

The other examining component of the course consists of an individual written take at home examination, and presentation of this at a seminar. It is examined individually on the basis of the grading scale Fail, Pass or Pass with distinction.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wants to change examiner before the next examination, they should submit a written request to the department responsible for the course. The request shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for study support for students with disabilities, the examiner may, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, 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 above is also applicable to internships and on-the-job-trainings, with the exception that examination is given on only one occasion.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). For grade Pass (G) in the course are required passed result (Pass) in written assignments and attendance at all seminars/laboratory sessions. To pass with distinction (Pass with distinction) is required furthermore that the student shows specifically good ability to discuss independently, critically and analysing and have particularly good diction in the individual written examination assignments and that these fulfil high set academic requirements of structure. To pass with distinction is required also that relevant and extensive parts of the course literature are used to answer the questions in the take at home examination.

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.

The results and possible changes to the course will be shared with the students who participated in the evaluation and the next class to take the course.