



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Criminology and Police Work

2PX901 Samhällsvetenskaplig metod och teori med inriktning mot polisiärt arbete, 15 högskolepoäng

Approaches, theories and research methods in social science and police work, 15 credits

Main field of study

Police Work

Subject Group

Other Subjects within Social Science

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G2F

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Social Sciences 2019-04-24

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2019

Prerequisites

General entry requirements and passed courses comprising 120 credits in social sciences, behavioural science or law, of which at least 60 credits in the main field of study Police Work, and an advanced course in police work or the equivalent.

Objectives

Module 1 Introduction, 3 credits

Upon completion of the course, students shall be able to:

- identify a problem related to the profession and give suggestions on how to look into the problem in a scientific manner,
- give an overview of the different parts of the research process and account for a selection of research concepts.

Module 2 Theory and analysis in social science, 4 credits

Upon completion of the course, students shall be able to:

- Identify research problems and findings within the field of social science, related to police work,
- describe and explain the various elements within the research process,
- distinguish, categorize and apply relevant theories and concepts of social science within research into police work.

Module 3 Research method in social science, 8 credits

Upon completion of the course, students shall be able to:

- Identify qualitative and quantitative methods for different kinds of research questions within the field of police work,
- practice scientific writing by developing a plan for the academic paper, and apply established reference management methods,
- evaluate and reflect on research ethical considerations,
- evaluate critically and reflect on the scientific approach and the signification of research to the police profession, orally as well as in writing.

Content

The course consists of three modules; one introduction, one on the theory and analysis methods within the field of social science, and one methodology course. The aim of the modules is that students shall deepen their knowledge of research methods and theoretical concepts in social science, relevant to analyses of police work, partly as a preparation for a Bachelor's degree and partly in order for the students to gain a good knowledge of and become familiar with methods and analysis techniques in social science.

Module 1 Introduction, 3 credits

The aim of the module is that students shall gain a deeper understanding of current as well as previous research into the field of police work. The emphasis is placed on police work as a profession and a social function. The module looks into where research is conducted, the people who conducts research into the field of police work, and gives examples of various kinds of research into police work. Important aspects of the module are the discussions held, regarding how to relate concrete issues in the professional role to research and methods development. Students also enhance their ability to search for literature at libraries and in databases.

Module 2 Theory and analysis in social science, 4 credits

The module discusses key theoretical and analysis traditions within the social sciences and focuses on advanced knowledge of a few important theory traditions within contemporary social sciences. The course also includes the different steps within the research process and the formulation and specification of research questions. The course also looks into approaches within the theory of science and research ethical aspects. Students shall also come up with theories relevant to the independent project.

Module 3 Research method in social science, 8 credits

The different stages within the research process are looked into, where special attention is paid to the consequences of different theoretical and methodological choices. Subjects discussed are for instance problem definition, concept formation, choice of research strategies and data collection strategies. The course also discusses research ethical issues in relation to police work.

Type of Instruction

Teaching consists of physical meetings in the form of lectures and seminars. Parts of the instruction also takes place in the virtual learning environment. The seminars are compulsory. In the event of absence, supplementary addition in the form of a written assignment is required. Some of the key features of the course are the discussions on the course content, to take place in seminars, and the reflection on the students' own experiences of police work. Compulsory components: Module 1 - Introduction, Seminar 1. Module 2 - Theory and analysis in social science, Seminar 1. Module 3 - Research method in social science, Seminar 1.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

Module 1 Introduction

Examination of the course objectives takes place individually by means of writing a minor paper, which is also to be discussed and examined orally in a seminar. The examination comprises 3 credits.

Module 2 Theory and analysis in social science

Examination of the course objectives takes place by means of an individual written assignment, to be presented orally in a seminar. The examination comprises 4 credits.

Module 3 Research method in social science

Examination of the course objectives takes place by means of an individual written assignment in the form of a research plan, which shall also be presented orally in a seminar. The examination comprises 8 credits.

In order to receive a grade of Pass in the course, all the examinations must be assessed as Pass. For a grade of Pass with Distinction in the course, it is required that the research plan is assessed as Pass with Distinction and the other examinations must be assessed as at least Pass.

A retake of the examination is provided in accordance with the Local Regulations for First-Cycle and Second-Cycle Courses and Examination at Linnaeus University.

Should the university determine that a student is entitled to special educational support due to impairment, the examiner may provide the student with an adapted test or the student may carry out the examination in an alternative way.

Course Evaluation

A course evaluation is carried out either during or at the end of the course. Results and analysis of the evaluation are presented to the students who have completed the course as well as to new students at the following course date. The course evaluation is conducted anonymously.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Module 1 - Introduction

Avby, Gunilla (Latest edition). *Att utveckla professionell expertis: en bok om kunskap och lärande*. Lund: Studentlitteratur AB, (171 p.)

Module 2 - Theory and analysis in social science

Thomassen, Magdalene (Latest edition). *Vetenskap, kunskap och praxis: introduktion till vetenskapsfilosofi*. Malmö: Gleerups utbildning, (234 p.)

Module 3 - Research method in social science

David, Matthew & Sutton, Carole D. (Latest edition). *Samhällsvetenskaplig metod*. Lund: Studentlitteratur AB, (496 p.)

Rienecker, Lotte & Stray Jørgensen, Peter (Latest edition). *Att skriva en bra uppsats*. Stockholm: Liber, (400 p.)

Additional literature, scientific publications and/or other study material, approximately 2,000 pages, to be decided on in consultation between student and teacher depending on the subject and specialisation.