



Course syllabus

School of Business and Economics

Department of Organisation and Entrepreneurship

4FE031 Aktionsbaserade metoder och tillämpning, 15 högskolepoäng

Action based Methods and Application, 15 credits

Main field of study

Business Administration

Subject Group

Business Administration

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by School of Business and Economics 2013-12-10

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2014

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies and specific entry requirements:

Business Administration with a minimum of 90 credits in Business Administration or the equivalent, and English B/English 6 or the equivalent.

Objectives

After completing this course the student is expected to:

- understand the origins of action based research and problematize the underlying values and assumptions of this research approach
- identify different traditions within action based research and critically assess those regarding their basic assumptions and values, as well as, regarding their ethical research considerations
- to be able to gain access to a business, an organization or the local community in order to carry out a development project
- plan the implementation of a development project together with representatives of the business, organization or community based on relevant action based methods
- demonstrate ability to orally and in writing communicate and work together with people from businesses, organizations or communities
- demonstrate ability to make relevant judgements with regard to societal and ethical aspects of the development project

Content

The course consists of the following elements:

- knowledge about action based methods
- identification of a business, organization or local community as context for a development project
- identification of development projects
- gain access to carry out the development project
- communication with selected contexts

Type of Instruction

The course is taught in the spirit of action based methods. Therefore, learning is a process of mutual exchange between students, teachers and the representatives from businesses, organizations or communities. A variety of instructions are utilized including lectures, seminars and student lead discussions. Collaboration and communication with representatives for contexts for development projects is an essential part of the course and requires that the students take responsibility to take the lead for their own learning in interaction. The role of the teachers is in that respect as mentors for the students. Obligatory parts are stated in the schedule.

Examination

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

Written report in group or individually. Participation and co-learning are important concepts in action based methods, thus an active participation during mandatory seminars is required in order to pass the course.

Results are graded using one of the terms Passed with distinction, Pass or Fail, and A-F according to the ECTS scale.

For the grade pass, the objectives have to be reached; the grade is based upon the degree to which the objectives are met. The weighing of the grades to the course grade is following the principles in the document "Principer för betygsrapportering dnr: ELNU 2011/160".

Students that do not pass reports can complement after consultation with the examiner.

Course Evaluation

A written course evaluation is carried out and compiled in a report, which is archived at the faculty. The results and possible measures taken are communicated by the course coordinator and presented to the students the next time the course is given, or in another way deemed suitable by the course coordinator. Other types of course evaluations, for example regular evaluations throughout the course or discussions with students, will be included and encouraged with the aim of ensuring continuous quality development.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Required reading

Bill, F. & Olaisson, L. (2009). The indirect approach of semi-focused groups. Expanding focus group research through role-playing. *Qualitative Research in Organizations and Management: An International Journal*, 4, 1, 7-26.

Boyer, E.L. (1996). The Scholarship of engagement. *The Journal of Public Service and Outreach*, 1, 11-20.

Freire, P. *Education for Critical Consciousness*. New York. Continuum. Latest edition. 164 pages.

Greenwood, D. J. & Lewin, M. *Introduction to action research: social research for social change*. Thousand Oaks, California. SAGE. Latest edition. 301 pages.

Johansson, A. W. & Lindhult, E. (2008). Emancipation or Workability?; Critical versus Pragmatic Scientific Orientation in Action Research. *Action Research*, 6(1), 95-114.

McIntyre, A. *Participative Action Research*. Los Angeles. SAGE. Latest edition. 104 pages.

Reason, P. & Bradbury, H. (eds.). *The SAGE Handbook of action research: participative inquiry and practice*. Los Angeles. SAGE. Latest edition. 752 pages.
Van de Ven, A.H. *Engaged scholarship. A guide for organizational and social research*. Oxford. Oxford University Press. Latest edition. 299 pages.

Additional Study Material

Additional literature will be selected in discussions with the student groups, depending on the methods used in their development project.