



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Social Studies

4FU419 Metod och forskningsstrategier, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Method and Research Strategies, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Peace and Development Studies

Subject Group

Peace and Development Research

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Social Sciences 2015-10-20

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2016

Prerequisites

- 30 ECTS in Peace and Development Studies at advanced level, or the equivalent
- English course B

Objectives

After having complete this course, students are expected to be able to:

- formulate and delimit a research problem within peace and development research as well as a research objective and a number of corresponding research questions
- Discuss the relevance of a research problem and its contribution to increased knowledge on a specific topic
- Choose, apply and justify a theoretical and methodological approach in relation to a selected research problem
- Analyze, critically reflect on and discuss ethical aspects of the research process
- Show proficiency in academic writing
- Discuss and defend the chosen research design, in written as well as oral form, in dialogue with other students
- Provide critical analytical as well as constructive comments on other students' research outlines.

The expected learning outcomes outline the skills and knowledge students are required to achieve in order to receive a passing grade.

Content

The course encompasses the main aspects of the research process, including the selection of a research problem, aim and purpose, a research design, the choice and application of theory, the choice and application of method, and analytical approaches. The course aspires to be broad and provide an overview of all these interlinked stages. The focus of the course is on qualitative methods within the subject, especially case studies, ethnographic studies, comparative methods, discourse analysis, text analysis methods, interview methods, source criticism, and project evaluations.

Type of Instruction

Lectures, exercises and seminars

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E, Fx or F.

Grade A is the highest grade and all other grades follow a falling scale in which grade E is the lowest grade to pass the course. A grade F means that the student has failed the course. Fx is not a grade and is only used when a student is allowed to complement her/his examination.

Students who have failed the course (in other words, got an F) during the ordinary course examination date will receive the opportunity to go through an additional examination shortly after the ordinary course examination date.

Examination is carried out through active participation in seminars and lectures as well as through a final presentation, submission, and defence of an individual PM.

Course Evaluation

Course evaluations are made through active dialogue with students along the courses, and through a written evaluation system. Evaluation results are discussed with students.

Credit Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following course/courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course:4FU414, credit overlap, 7.5 credits

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Bennett, Andrew and George L. Alexander (2005) *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. MIT Press. 331 pp.

Bryman, Alan, *Social Research Methods* (latest edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 530 pp.

Creswell, John (2009) *Research Design. Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Los Angeles: SAGE

Dannermark, Berth, Mats Ekström, Liselotte Jakobsson and Jan Ch. Karlsson (2002) *Explaining Society. Critical Realism in the Social Sciences*. Routledge. 221 pp.

Hammersley, Martyn and Paul Atkinson (latest edition) *Ethnography*. New York: Routledge, 266 pages (on e-brary).

Thomas, Alan and Giles Mohan (2015) *Research Skills for Policy and Development*. Los Angeles: Sage, 353 pages.

Additional articles and writing samples will be made available by the course leader, 200 pages.