



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

4KP430 Humanvetenskaplig metod och praktik, 7,5 högskolepoäng
4KP430 Method and Practice in the Humanities, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Colonial and postcolonial studies

Subject Group

Cultural Studies

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2019-09-18
The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2020

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for studies at the second level and 90 credits in the humanities or social sciences (including an independent project of at least 15 credits).
English B/English 6 or the equivalent

Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- discuss how methods in the humanities and social sciences are manifested in an academic thesis,
- account for the different parts of a Master's thesis and their relation,
- present a plan for their own thesis,
- account for and apply critical collection of data and information, account for the importance of different methods to solve specific research questions, analytically explain the relation between argument, analyses and conclusions in an academic project,
- independently identify and evaluate different perspectives and experiences in historical and contemporary documentation, focusing on colonial and postcolonial contexts.

Content

This course discusses methods in the humanities and the social sciences, focusing on postcolonial perspectives, with the aim of the students developing knowledge necessary to identify and accumulate new information, analyse and assess complex phenomena and descriptions, and draw conclusions correctly in an advanced academic analysis. The students practise their ability to work with literary texts and non-written sources in historical and contemporary material. The course includes practise in planning and conducting field work in which knowledge of observation and conversation as methods are crucial, as well as the importance of spoken communication, relations and memory when collecting material.

The course is organised so that different parts and requirements of the thesis work are covered in different parts of the course and the students are challenged to reflect on ethical aspects and their own role in the work. The students formulate their own thesis plans.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of seminars.

Examination

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

The course is examined continuously through written assignments and oral presentations in seminars. If a student misses or fails a seminar, the examiner may allow the student to supplement this through a written assignment. The grade A is the highest grade and the grade E is the lowest grade for passing the course. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as failed. Assessment criteria for the A–F scale are communicated to the students in a separate document. The students are informed about the assessment criteria when the course starts, at the latest.

If the university has decided that a student has the right to special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may offer an adapted test or allow the student to conduct the test in an alternative form.

Course Evaluation

At the end of the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are communicated to the students who have taken the course. Students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time are informed of the results at the start of the course. The evaluation is anonymous.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Alvesson, Mats, and Kaj Sköldböck, 2009. *Reflexive methodology: new vistas for qualitative research*. (ca 200 p). ISBN 9781848601123

Green, Anna, 2016. *The Houses of History: A critical reader in history and theory*. Manchester University Press. (259 p). ISBN 9780719096211

Loomba, Ania, 2015, *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*. (third edition) Routledge. (228 p). ISBN 9781138807181

Reid, Kirsty, and Fiona Paisley, 2017. *Sources and methods in histories of colonialism: Approaching the imperial archive*. Abingdon and New York: Routledge. (100 p). ISBN 9780415521758

Additional texts in accordance with instructions from the teacher (ca 300 p.)