



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Social Studies

4SO403 Etnografisk metod, 7,5 högskolepoäng

4SO403 Ethnographic Research, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Sociology

Subject Group

Sociology

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2009-12-09

Revised 2016-06-07 by Faculty of Social Sciences.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2016

Prerequisites

Bachelor degree with a minimum of 90 ECTS credits in sociology.

Objectives

After completing the course, students shall be able to demonstrate:

- advanced knowledge of ethnographic methods and analysis work
- the ability to identify how ethnographic analyses are constructed and the theoretical and methodical tools applied
- the ability to apply ethnographic methods and put this method into practice in analysis work
- advanced ability to independently assess ethical aspects in research
- advanced ability to reflect critically on work based on qualitative methods

Content

The course discusses what can be viewed as the distinctive features of ethnographic research in relation to other kinds of qualitative approach. Special emphasis is put on the discussion about the importance of theory in ethnographic research. The course also discusses how studies are performed in practice by the use of ethnographic methods and analysis. Aspects such as how issues are defined and in what ways empirics may be

applied in scientific analysis so that it may state something other than the mere describing parts and plain interpretation, are for instance discussed. Analysis procedures are practiced in relation to interviews and observations.

Type of Instruction

Teaching consists of lectures, seminars and individual literature studies.

Examination

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

Active participation in seminars and individual written assignments (take-home examination).

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 the students at the following course date. The course evaluation is conducted anonymously.

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: 4SO431

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Becker Howard, et al On the Value of Ethnography: Sociology and Public Policy. A Dialogue. *Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*. 2004:595, 264-276. <http://ann.sagepub.com/content/595/1/264.short>

DeVault, Marjorie L. & McCoy, Liza, Institutional Ethnography: Using interviews to investigate ruling relations. I James A. Holstein & Jaber F. Gubrium (Eds.), *Inside interviewing. New lenses, new concerns*. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage.2003. ISBN 9781412984492.

Goffman Erving, *Behavior in Public Places. Notes on the social organization of gatherings*. The Free Press. New York. 1963. ISBN 0-02-911940-5. (part 1, 2 and 3, ca. 150 pages).

Hammersley Martyn & Atkinson Paul, *Ethnography. Principles in Practice*. Third Edition. Routledge. London. 2007. ISBN 0-415-39605-0. 275 p.

Krause-Jensen Jens, Ideology at work: Ambiguity and irony of value-based management in Bang & Olufsen. *Ethnography*. 2011:12(2), 266-289.

Lamont Michèle, & Swidler Ann, Methodological Pluralism and the Possibilities and Limits of Interviewing. *Qualitative Sociology*. 2014:37, 153-171.

Perry Samuel, L. Urban hybrid space and the homeless. *Ethnography*. 2013: 14(4), 431-451.

Van Maanen John, Ethnography as Work. Some Rules of Engagement. *Journal of Management Studies*. 2011. 48:1, 218-234.

Van Maanen John, *Tales of the Field: on writing ethnography*. University of Chicago Press. Chicago. 1988.

Willis, Paul, *Fostran till lönearbete*. Röda Bokförlaget. Göteborg. 1981. Ca. 330 p. (Several editions available).

Alternative to Willis 1981:

Vaughan, Diane, *The Challenger Launch Decision: Risky Technology, Culture, and Deviance at NASA*. University of Chicago Press. Chicago. 1996. ISBN-13 978-0226851761, ISBN-10 0226851761. Ca. 400 p.

Willis Paul, & Trondman Mats, Manifesto for ethnography. *Ethnography* 1(1), 5-16.

Wilson William, Julius, & Chadda Anmol, The Role of Theory in Ethnographic Research. *Ethnography*. 2009: 10(4), 549-564.

Articles may be included, approximately 80 pages.