



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Social Studies

4SO409 Etnografisk metod, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Ethnographic Research, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Sociology

Subject Group

Sociology

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1F

Date of Ratification

Approved 2018-06-20

Revised 2021-08-26 by Faculty of Social Sciences. Revision of type of instruction and examination.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2022

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies, and specific entry requirements as follows:

- minimum 90 credits in Sociology, Peace and Development Studies, Sport Science, Education, Social Work or Political Science or the equivalent.
- 4XA101 Qualitative Methods in Social Science or the equivalent
- Swedish B/3 and English A/5 or the equivalent

Objectives

After completing the course, students shall be able to:

- apply ethnographic data collection methods and document field observations
- conduct qualitative analyses of empirical data
- assess and problematize ethical aspects within ethnographic research
- critically reflect on ethnographic studies concerning the relation between the purpose of the study, the choice of methods, theory and analysis of ethical aspects.

Content

The course discusses what can be viewed as the distinctive features of ethnographic research in relation to other kinds of qualitative approaches. 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 and seminars. Seminars are compulsory.

Examination

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

Examination of the course takes place by means of an individual written assignments, which shall be discussed by means of a peer review at a seminar.

In order to receive a grade of Pass in the course, all the objectives must be attained. For a grade of Pass with Distinction in the course, it is required that the individual assignment is assessed as Pass with Distinction.

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 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 courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course: 4SO431 7.5 credits and 4SO403 7.5 credits.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Becker, Howard, Gans, Herbert J., Newman, Katherine S. and Vaughan, Diane. On the Value of Ethnography: Sociology and Public Policy. A Dialogue. *Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*. 2004:595, 264-276 (12 pages). Available on the Internet.

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. (pp. 369-394, 25 pages). ISBN 9781412984492.

Goffman, Alice. *Jagade. Livet på flykt i en amerikansk stad*. University of Chicago Press. 2019. ISBN 9789127160163. 288 pages.

Alternative to Goffman: Whyte Foote, William. *Street Corner Society. The Social Structure of an Italian Slum*. University of Chicago Press. 1993. ISBN 9780226895451. 418 pages.

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

Krause-Jensen Jens, Ideology at work: Ambiguity and irony of value-based management in Bang & Olufsen. *Ethnography*. 2011:12(2), (pp. 266-289, 24 pages).

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

Norström, Eva och Kristina Gustafsson, 2010. To receive with grace – the reception of separated minors arriving in Sweden I. *Diskurs Kindheits und Jugendforschung heft 2*, (pp. 169-180).

Perry Samuel, L. Urban hybrid space and the homeless. *Ethnography*. 2013: 14(4), (pp. 431-451, 20 pages).

Van Maanen John, Ethnography as Work. Some Rules of Engagement. *Journal of Management Studies*. 2011. 48:1, (pp. 218-234, 16 pages).

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

Willis Paul, & Trondman Mats, Manifesto for ethnography. *Ethnography* 1(1), (pp. 5-16, 11 pages).

Wilson William, Julius, & Chadda Anmol, The Role of Theory in Ethnographic Research. *Ethnography*. 2009: 10(4), (pp. 549-564, 15 pages).

Articles may be included, approximately 80 pages.