



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Political Science

4XA101 Kvalitativa metoder i samhällsvetenskaperna, 7,5  
högskolepoäng

Qualitative Methods in Social Science, 7.5 credits

### **Main field of study**

Peace and Development Studies, Sport Science, Education, Social Work, Political Science, Sociology

### **Subject Group**

Other Interdisciplinary Studies

### **Level of classification**

Second Level

### **Progression**

A1N

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved 2016-11-30

Revised 2021-06-16 by Faculty of Social Sciences. Revision of the course literature.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2021

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies: minimum 90 credits in Peace and Development Studies, Educational Science, Social Work, Sociology, Sport Science or Political Science, or the equivalent.

## Objectives

After completing the course, students shall be able to:

- Independently discuss the relevance of scientific theory positions to the choices of social science methods.
- Account for possibilities and limitations with different qualitative methods and their application in social science research.
- Independently apply and evaluate research ethical principles.
- In an academic paper, present independent and creative analyses on the basis of social science methods.
- Verbally as well as in writing account for arguments and conclusions in the course literature through discussions with teachers and other students.
- Independently and creatively plan a scientific paper.

## Content

This course covers central elements of the research process: research ethics, problem definition, research design and choice of method, analysis methods and presentation of results. In this respect, the course aims at providing a general view as well as specialisation.

The course includes the following main components:

- Qualitative methods: ethnographic method, interview method, case study method, text analysis
- Theory of science, research design, research ethics

## Type of Instruction

Teaching consists of lectures, practical assignments and/or seminars.

## Examination

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

The grade of A is the highest grade in the grading system, the remaining grades follow in descending order where the grade of E is the lowest grade required to pass the course. The grade of F entails that the student's performances have been assessed as failed. Fx is not a grade and is only applied when a student is allowed to supplement their examination.

Students who fail to receive the grade of Pass (i.e. they have received the grade of F) at the scheduled examination date will have the opportunity to retake the exam close to the original exam date.

The examination gives a maximum of 60 points on 4 examination components. The examination consists of three written assignments including corresponding seminars/practical assignments during the course, and a final more extensive examination assignment. These three written assignments will together give a total of maximum 30 points (max. 10 points/assignment). The final examination assignment gives a maximum of 30 points. In order to pass the course, a minimum of 5 points/assignment are required for the written assignments, and at least 15 points for the concluding examination assignment. The total points for the course are used as the basis for the grading as per this scale:

### Grading scale A-F

A=54-60 points

B=48-53 points

C=42-47 points

D=36-41 points

E=30-35 points

F=0-29 points

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 new 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: 4XA100 Methods in Social Science, 15 credits.

## Required Reading and Additional Study Material

AbuLughod, Lila (1990). Can there be a feminist ethnography? *Women & Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory*, 5(1), pp. 7-27.

Carmani, Daniele (Latest edition). *Comparative Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, ch. 3.

Chalmers, Alan (Latest edition). *What is This Thing Called Science?* Maidenhead: Open University Press/McGrawHill Education, pp. 1-96 (96 pages). Alternatively: Chalmers, Alan (Latest edition). *Vad är vetenskap egentligen? Om väsen och status hos vetenskapen och dess metoder*. Nora: Nya Doxa, pp. 1-70 (70 pages).

Davies, Charlotte Aull ed (Latest edition). *Reflexive Ethnography: A Guide to Researching Selves and Others*. London: Routledge (selected parts, 150 pages).

Flick, Uwe (Latest edition). *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*. London: Sage (selected parts, 105 pages).

George, Alexander & Bennet, Andrew (Latest edition). *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press. 330 pages.

Gustafsson, Bengt, Hermerén, Göran & Pettersson, Bo (Latest edition). *Good Research practice*. MyMoodle (129 pages). Alternatively: Gustafsson, Bengt, Hermerén, Göran & Pettersson, Bo (2011). *God forskningsed*. MyMoodle (129 pages).

Howarth, David (Latest edition). *Discourse*. Buckingham: Open University Press. (176 pages).

Landman, Todd (Latest edition). *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics*. London: Routledge. Part 1, ch. 1-5.

Richter, Melvin (1990). "Reconstructing the History of Political Languages: Pocock, Skinner, and the Geschichtliche Grundbegriffe" *History & Theory* 29(1), 1990, pp. 38-70.

Silverman David (Latest edition). *Interpreting Qualitative Data*, London: Sage (selected parts, 202 pages).