



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Social Studies

5SO448 Att skriva forskningsöversikt och forskningsplan, 7,5
högskolepoäng

Writing a literary review, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Sociology

Subject Group

Sociology

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1F

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Social Sciences 2020-10-14

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2021

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies and specific entry requirements:

- Degree of Bachelor in Sociology, or the equivalent
- Swedish 3/B and English 5/A, or the equivalent
- 30 credits in second-cycle studies in Sociology, or the equivalent

Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students shall be able to:

- describe the purpose and design of the literature review, and explain its function in the research work,
- look for, identify and collect previous research relevant to the research domain of the paper,
- evaluate previous research, and critically discuss the implications of this to the research design, regarding their own study as well as that of others,
- in a memorandum for the academic paper, account for the research situation within the field in question, and in relation to this give the reasons for their choice of research problem and possible theoretical and methodological approaches.

Content

The aim of the course is for students to learn how to write a literature review within the scope of a memorandum, which should include background and research problem, purpose and questions, as well as a discussion on theory and method. During the course, the structure and logic of conducting a scientific study are clarified, and how to present this in the form of a thesis and paper. The students will independently collect and compile previous research and write a memorandum for their own papers. At the end of the course, an examination seminar is held, where the students shall comment on their fellow students' memorandums.

Type of Instruction

Teaching takes place in the form of lectures, workshops, seminars and supervision. Workshops, seminars and supervision are compulsory.

Examination

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

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

Examination of the course objectives takes place by means of an individual written assignment in the form of a memorandum for the academic paper, and the participation as student reviewer and author of a thesis in the final seminar. The examination comprises 7.5 credits.

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.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Blaikie, Norman (2009). *Designing Social Research. The Logic of Anticipation*. Cambridge: Polity (selected pages: pp. 59-66, 69-75.) ISBN 9780745643380

Booth, Andrew, Sutton, Anthea & Papaioannou, Diana (2016). *Systematic Approaches to a Successful Literature Review* (2 uppl). London: Sage (selected pages, pp. 142-146) ISBN 9781473912465.

Randolph, Justus (2009). "A Guide to Writing the Dissertation Literature Review", *Practical Assessment, Research, and Evaluation*, 14(3): 1-13.

Rienecker, Lotte, Jørgensen, Peter Stray & Gandil, Morten (2008). *Skriv en artikel. Om vetenskapliga artiklar, fackartiklar och förmedlande artiklar*. Malmö: Liber (selected pages, 35-42, 46-49, 59-61) ISBN 9789147089475

The students shall in addition collect their own literature, to be approved by the course coordinator (including papers and publications, reports, chapters and possibly parts of books), for their own field of research to be discussed in the literature review, approximately 500 pages.

