



Faculty of Social Sciences

Active Learning in Social Science, 2 weeks

(Aktivt lärande i samhällsvetenskap, 2 veckor)

A. General information

The course is part of the qualifying training within learning and teaching in higher education at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The course description was approved by the Faculty Board on 23 November 2023.

The course is open to all teaching staff members and doctoral students at Lund University. Preference is given to staff working at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The language of instruction is English.

B. Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding:

On completion of the course, the participants shall be able to demonstrate:

- knowledge of a constructivist student-centred active learning approach.
- knowledge of active learning when teaching in large groups.
- knowledge of active learning when teaching in small groups.

Competence and skills:

On completion of the course, the participants shall be able to demonstrate:

- the ability to conceive of and design new encounters with, and settings, for active learning.
- the ability to plan, implement and evaluate active learning courses within their own subject area and based on the central themes of the course.
- the ability to contribute to student learning using an active learning approach.

Assessment and approach:

On completion of the course, the participants shall be able to demonstrate:

- the ability to take a critical position on and evaluate active learning courses within their own subject area and based on the central themes of the course.

C. Design and content

The course focuses on active learning in social science as a central strategy to promote student-centred learning and teaching in higher education. It is based on a long tradition of international research on higher education and a need to develop education at Lund University. Active learning can counterbalance AI-accelerated large language models.

The course content covers the following aspects of active learning in social science:

- active learning as a constructivist student-centred approach.
- practical techniques to improve learning and teaching in large groups.
- practical techniques to improve learning and teaching in small groups.
- designing and implementing new encounters with and settings for active learning, both within and outside the classroom.
- designing and implementing new active learning courses based on the lessons learned from this course.
- understanding and explaining how and why active learning improves student knowledge acquisition.

The course consists of active learning sessions including flipped classrooms, practical exercises, group work, presentations by the participants, and active participation.

D. Assessment

The course is assessed through four short preparations and group work (500 words), a longer presentation (1,500-2,000) of a new course, and active participation. The assessments are based on the course literature and active participation as relevant to a course on active learning in social science. Constructive peer review is also included. An important part of the course involves active learning experiences – learning by doing – rather than teacher-directed transfer of knowledge.

The course requires active student presence at the scheduled sessions (at least 5 of the 6 half days), preparation and presentation of the assignments, as well as participation.

E. Entry requirements:

Participation in the course does not require completion of any previous courses in learning and teaching in higher education.

F. Compulsory reading

The list of required reading will be available before the course starts.