

SGR013F, Analyses in Qualitative Research, 15 credits, third cycle

The course was established by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Lund University on 21 November 2019.

The syllabus is valid from the spring semester 2020.

A. General information

The course is an interdisciplinary third-cycle course in qualitative research methods in the social sciences offered at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The language of instruction is English or Swedish.

B. Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the doctoral student shall be able to

- assess the strengths and weaknesses of different qualitative methods in general and for specific projects
- demonstrate understanding of the connection between epistemological points of departure, issues, research designs, production and analysis of data
- demonstrate an advanced understanding of different types of interview, observation and text analysis methods
- discuss the links between the data generation and choice of analysis
- critically discuss influential ideas from different methodological traditions in qualitative research
- critically reflect on ethical considerations with regard to qualitative research methods

C. Course content

The aim of the course is to provide doctoral students with an overview of different ways of analyzing qualitative methods for the generation and analysis of data. A further aim is to enable students to see and create links between data generation and data analysis. Among the methods discussed are different types of interviews, ethnographic field observations, and documents. The methods of data analysis explored mainly include discourse analysis, narrative analysis, rhetorical analysis,

analysis of interactions, and analysis of documents. Research ethics, finally, is discussed. Participants often have various disciplinary backgrounds, which provides an opportunity for sharing alternative perspectives on research issues.

D. Course design

The course consists of a combination of lectures, seminars on the required reading and practice-oriented workshops on data analysis. The purpose of the lectures is to provide students with an overview of different ways of analyzing qualitative material. The seminars address selections of the required reading which the students are expected to prepare through reading and critical analysis. The analysis exercises at the workshops deal with the students' own empirical material. Consequently, students should be prepared to contribute empirical material to the workshops.

E. Assessment

Doctoral students must come well prepared to the lectures, participate actively in the seminars and both contribute and analyse empirical data at the workshops. Students who are unable to participate in specific seminars or workshops will be asked to discuss the selected texts in writing.

The assessment is based on a paper of 15 pages demonstrating knowledge about the required reading. The paper is to be presented and discussed at an assessed seminar in which the students critically review each other's papers. All participants at a specific seminar are expected to have read and be prepared to discuss the papers presented at that seminar.

One re-sit opportunity is offered at the end of the course. If necessary, further re-sit opportunities will be offered at a later date.

F. Grades

The grades awarded are Pass or Fail. To be awarded a grade of Pass, students must have attained the learning outcomes stated for the course, completed the seminar component and demonstrated knowledge of the literature and an independent, reflective and critical approach to the methods of analyses introduced in the course in an individual paper and in comments on the other students' papers.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

G. Admission requirements

To be admitted to the course, the student must be admitted to research studies and have basic knowledge of qualitative methodology. The course director will determine if the prior knowledge is sufficient in doubtful cases. If a selection of participants is necessary, doctoral students at the Faculty of Social Sciences have priority.