FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

LUND UNIVERSITY

SGR006F Qualitative Analysis and Coding (using software), 7.5 credits, third cycle

The course was established by the board of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Lund University on 18 November 2018 and the course syllabus was approved by the Research Studies Council on 27 March 2019.

The syllabus is valid from spring semester 2019.

A. General information

The course is offered at the Faculty of Social Sciences as an interdisciplinary third cycle course.

The language of instruction is English.

B. Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- identify and critically reflect on qualitative analysis as a research method in the social sciences

- understand strategies for qualitative analysis that allow researchers to systematically organise, process, integrate, interpret, and understand qualitative data

- understand the strengths and limitations of qualitative data and qualitative strategies for analysis

- know how to develop research questions and link analytical strategies to descriptive and theoretical problems

- understand how methodologically rigorous qualitative analyses manage issues of validity, reliability, and generalisability common to all scientific inquiry

- understand the particular issues qualitative data present for conceptualisation, operationalisation, and measurement

Competence and skills

- demonstrate proficiency in the organisation and management of data for qualitative analysis

- demonstrate proficiency in multiple analytical strategies for hand coding and software-assisted coding of data for qualitative analysis

- demonstrate the ability to carry out individual and collaborative analysis at the PhD level focused on the qualitative study of textual documents

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate a methodologically rigorous and theoretically driven approach to the qualitative analysis of empirical data

- demonstrate a critical evaluation, including the potentials and limits, of qualitative analysis in the social sciences

- demonstrate a critical evaluation of manual and software-assisted approaches to qualitative analysis

C. Course content

Qualitative data can help us to understand the world, build theory, and advance knowledge. But how does qualitative analysis work – how can we systematically organise, process, integrate, and understand qualitative data?

This course provides the opportunity to focus in depth on qualitative analysis in both theory and practice, and prepares the student for research at the master's and doctoral level. The student will develop the skills necessary to conduct qualitative data analysis individually and in collaboration with others to generate new knowledge about the social world.

This course provides the student with a range of strategies for qualitative analysis and hands-on practice developing research questions and analytical strategies. The student will learn to code data manually and using CAQDAS software and will gain experience carrying out analysis in both individual and collaborative projects. We will focus on validity, reliability, and generalisability, and will consider the particular issues qualitative data present for conceptualisation, operationalisation, and measurement. The strengths and limitations of qualitative data will be discussed and diverse inductive and deductive strategies for analysis will be practiced.

Throughout the course, we will work with extant data. We will develop research questions, build datasets, code data and develop preliminary analyses, build collaborative teams, and work in small groups to analyse data using diverse qualitative approaches. We will learn to develop codebooks, check for inter-coder reliability, and use visualisation in theory-building and analysis. By the end of the course, the student will be able to confidently code and analyse qualitative data manually and using CAQDAS software.

D. Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars, and workshops. The course is teaching intensive and requires a high degree of participation.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation in seminars is required. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances

such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re- take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

E. Assessment

Assessment is based on the following:

- individual assignment: research memo and codebook
- group assignment: reliability test, research memo
- final project: written final project and oral presentation

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses that have ended during that school year. Two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the end of the course. After this, further re- examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

F. Grades

The grading scale consists of Pass and Fail. The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of Pass, the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail, the student must have shown unacceptable results.

In order to pass the course, the student has to be awarded "Pass" on all the components (active participation in seminars, and the individual and group assignments) as well as on the final project.

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 on the course.

G. Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have been admitted to third cycle studies. Doctoral students from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Lund University have precedence if a selection process for applicants is required.