



SAKA004, Qualitative Methods, 15 credits, third cycle

The course was adopted by the Board of the Lund University Faculty of Social Sciences 23 November 2017 and the syllabus approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences 8 November 2017.

The syllabus is valid from the spring semester 2018.

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 and the usefulness of different qualitative methods in general and for specific projects
- demonstrate understanding of the connection between ontological and epistemological points of departure, issues, research designs, production and analysis of data and with regard to argumentation and presentation
- demonstrate an advanced understanding of different types of interview, observation and text analysis methods
- critically reflect on data collected from interviews, observations and texts as documentation for scientific knowledge
- discuss the links between the generation and analysis of data in practical terms
- 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 advanced survey of different 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 and to understand how these links must affect the design and processing of research. Among the methods discussed are different types of interview, observation, document collection and online data collection. The methods of data analysis explored mainly include discourse analysis, narrative analysis, observation analysis, and document analysis. The exact content of the course can be adapted to the needs and interests of the participants. Research ethics, finally, is an important subject of the course. The multidisciplinary background of the participants

provides special opportunity for enriching 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 a survey of different qualitative methods and specialised insights into certain aspects. 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 primarily deal with the students' own empirical material. Consequently, students should be prepared to contribute empirical material (preferably their own) to the workshops. Two opportunities for discussions of content and supervision are provided during the period of work on the paper.

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 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 and an independent, reflective and critical approach to the methods 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.