

Applied methodology

Hanna Bäck, Hanna Wittrock and Christopher Mathieu

Introduction

The intended learning outcomes of this course are (a) a deepened understanding of a particular research method, (b) an ability to apply and critically assess research methods in the social sciences, (c) an ability to design empirical investigations in order to evaluate the usefulness of research methods, and (d) an ability to communicate methodological insights. The method could be either qualitative or quantitative, and could involve any of the principal stages of the research process. Participants are expected to demonstrate that they have achieved the learning outcomes through the methods thesis (see below) and through active participation in seminars. Teaching consists of individual and group supervision. Participants select relevant course literature in consultation with the teachers.

Schedule

- **Course Introduction** (discussion of idea papers)
Date: 29/4 (Wed), 9–12, (room: R115, G:a Kirurgen, you need your LU-card to enter corridor)
- **Group Tutorials** (discussion of paper parts)
Date: 13/5 (Wednesday), 9–12 (room: Eden 136, Eden 137)
- **Submission of Thesis Paper**
Date: 1/6 (Monday), at 9.00
- **Paper Examination Seminar** (*non-political science students*)
Date: 3/6 (Wednesday), 9–12 (room M109/R115) and 13–16 (room M221/M225)
- **National Methods Workshop** (*political science students, organized by Stockholm*)
Date (preliminary): 8–9/6

Notes on the thesis

During this course, each participant will conduct a small empirical investigation designed to evaluate the usefulness of a research method or a set of methods. The research method itself should thus be the focus of inquiry, not the substantive issue that is investigated. The method must be employed in practice to investigate a real empirical phenomenon, although of a very limited scope. The thesis should be in the range of 4000–6000 words. Since the course period is relatively short, it is important to come up with a topic before the course starts. Please e-mail a one-page idea paper at the latest on April 27th!

Contact details

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