

Applied methodology

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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

Date, time	Room	Type of seminar	Content	Deadlines for papers
(Mon) 2/5, 9–12	R115	Course introduction	Discussion of idea papers	Send in by 29/4, 9.00!
(Mon) 16/5, 9–12	R115	Group tutorials	Discussion of paper parts	Send in by 13/5, 9.00!
(Tues) 31/5, 9.00	–	–	–	Submission of thesis
(Thur) 2/6, 8–13	R115	Examination	Discussion of final papers	
8–9/6	(Örebro)	Examination (pol- sci) ¹	Methods workshop	

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 29th!

Contact details

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¹ The theses of the Ph.D. students from the political science department are presented separately in a national methods workshop, this year organized by Örebro University. Hence, political science Ph.D. students do not attend the examination seminar on the 2nd of June!