

## Applied methodology

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### Introduction

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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

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Date, time	Room	Type of seminar	Content	Deadlines for papers
(Tue) 2/5, 9–12		Course introduction	Discussion of idea papers	Send in by 28/4, 9.00!
(Tue) 16/5, 9–12		Group tutorials	Discussion of paper parts	Send in by 12/5, 9.00!
(Wed) 24/5, 12.00	–	–	–	Submission of thesis
(Wed) 31/5, 9–15		Examination	Discussion of final papers	
June 12-13	Department of Political Science, LU	Examination (polsci) <sup>1</sup>	Methods workshop	

### Notes on the thesis

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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 29<sup>th</sup>!

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<sup>1</sup> The theses of the Ph.D. students from the political science department are presented separately in a national methods workshop, this year organized by Department of Political Science, Lund University Dates and times will be presented later. Hence, political science Ph.D. students do not attend the examination seminar on May 31.