



LUND UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social Sciences

**A. Syllabus for Faculty PhD Course in Applied Methodology,
Methods Thesis
7.5 higher education credits**

Third cycle

The course was adopted and the syllabus was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Lund University, 28 January 2010.

This syllabus is valid from the Spring Semester 2010.

B. Course Details

The course is offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences as an interdisciplinary third-cycle course in methodology for the Social Sciences. The language of instruction is English or Swedish.

C. Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall demonstrate

- a deepened understanding of a qualitative or quantitative research method,
- an ability to apply and critically assess research methods for the study of research issues in the Social Sciences,
- an ability to design empirical investigations in order to evaluate the usefulness of research methods,
- an ability to communicate methodological insights, both in writing and orally.

D. Course Content

The aim of the course is to provide a deepened understanding of a particular research method of the students' own choosing, selected after consultation with the lecturer/s. The method could be either qualitative or quantitative, and could concern any of the primary stages of the research process (e.g., conceptualisation and measurement/interpretation, sampling methods, case selection methods, methods for data collection and analysis, etc.). The student conducts a mini method experiment, i.e. a small empirical investigation designed to evaluate the usefulness of a research method or a set of alternative methods. The research method itself should thus be the focus of inquiry, not the social scientific issue investigated. Relevant reading material for the particular method under investigation is selected in consultation with the lecturer/s. The method must be employed in practice to investigate a real empirical phenomenon, although on a very limited scale.

E. Teaching and Assessment

Teaching consists of individual and group supervision. The course work is assessed in seminars. Participation in seminars is mandatory. The length of the course papers should be approximately 4 000–6 000 words, including the list of references.

Re-examination is offered after the conclusion of the course. If necessary, a second opportunity for re-examination will be arranged at a later date.

F. Grades

The grades awarded are Pass or Fail. To be awarded a Pass the student must fulfil the learning outcomes specified and also demonstrate an independent, reflective, highly knowledgeable and critical relation to the research field and to the theories and methodologies presented in the course.

G. Admission Requirements

The course is primarily intended for students admitted to a third-cycle programme at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Lund University who have attended the Faculty PhD course in either quantitative or qualitative methods. Depending on the space available, the course is also open to other doctoral students with demonstrably good knowledge in either quantitative or qualitative methods.

H. Course Literature

The course literature is student-specific to fit the chosen research method and is chosen in consultation with the lecturer/s.