



## **A. SAKM002, Introduction to Quantitative Methods, 7.5 credits, third cycle**

The course was adopted and the syllabus approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Lund University 5 February 2015. This syllabus is valid from the spring semester 2015.

## **B. General information**

The course is offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences as an interdisciplinary course in quantitative methods for the social sciences. It does not require any previous knowledge of statistics. The language of instruction is English or Swedish.

## **C. Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course, the doctoral student shall demonstrate

- an understanding of basic concepts and principles associated with quantitative methods
- an ability to perform basic quantitative analysis, including choosing the appropriate method, interpreting the outcome and reporting the results
- an ability to summate and critically reflect on quantitative research findings in a highly knowledgeable, independent and theoretically informed way
- an ability to incorporate quantitative research findings and qualitative research findings and/or quantitative research findings and theoretical work within a specific research area

## **D. Course content**

The aim of the course is for doctoral students with little prior knowledge of quantitative methods to develop an understanding of the basic concepts and fundamental principles guiding the use of quantitative methods, acquire basic practical skills with regard to the performance of statistical analysis and develop the ability to critically assess quantitative research within their own field. Through lectures and laboratory sessions students develop practical skills as well as the ability to independently formulate and adequately analyse quantitative research questions. Through lectures, individual work and seminars students also develop the ability to independently, critically and efficiently collect and summate the most relevant quantitative research findings within a specific/defined research area.

**E. Course Implementation**

The course is teaching intensive and requires a high degree of participation. Teaching includes lectures, teacher-assisted exercises in practical statistical analysis, seminars and individual supervision/guidance. The period of supervision is limited to the semester in which the student is first registered on the course. Exceptions can be made on special grounds.

**F. Assessment**

The learning outcomes related to practical analysis and to critical assessment of quantitative research studies will be examined separately, through two different papers. Participants are also expected to present and discuss one of their papers at an examination seminar and to actively engage in the discussion of the works of other participants.

One re-sit opportunity is offered at the end of the course. If necessary, a second re-sit opportunity will be offered at a later date.

**G. 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. At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus.

**H. Admission requirements**

The course is primarily intended for students admitted to a third-cycle programme. If a selection of participants is necessary, doctoral students at the Faculty of Social Sciences have priority. Depending on the space available, the course is also open to staff from all faculties.