



Faculty of Social and Life Sciences
Public Health Science

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Social and Life Sciences on 3 December 2008, and is valid from the Autumn semester of 2009 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: FHAE33

Qualitative Scientific Methodology, 7.5 ECTS Credits

(Kvalitativ vetenskaplig metod, 7.5 Swedish credit points)

Degree Level: Master

Progressive Specialisation: A1N (Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements)

Language of Instruction

The language of instruction is mainly Swedish, but some parts and some of the course literature may be in another Scandinavian language and/or English.

Prerequisites

Bachelor's degree of at least 180 ECTS credits with optional major plus upper secondary school level Swedish B/Swedish as a second language B. The course is open to all students who meet the admission requirements stated above.

Major Field of Study

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to know (as defined by the following three categories: Knowledge and understanding, Skills and abilities, and Ability to evaluate and scientific approach--the areas defined by the Regulation of Examination ["Examensordningen"], select the one appropriate for the course):

Knowledge and understanding

Students should be able to:

- select a relevant qualitative method and approach with regard to the problem statement and context
- understand the process of qualitative research in its different stages
- be conversant with the process of evaluation of validity in qualitative studies
- be familiar with a selection of qualitative methods.

Skills and abilities

Students should be able to:

- argue their selection of method
- plan and describe a section on qualitative method, with all its components, for a degree project
- reflect on ethical issues in the degree project
- evaluate the qualitative validity of articles in scientific journals

Ability to evaluate and scientific approach

Students should be able to:

- integrate sex- and gender perspectives with qualitative research

- be well versed in ethical practices for research and researchers
- adopt a critical approach in education and research.

Content and Form of Instruction

Instruction is in the form of distance learning through a web-based platform and in the form of three brief periods on campus at the beginning, middle, and towards the end of the course. The campus meetings are obligatory and consist of lectures, group assignments, and seminars.

The structure and form of the course is partly based on the idea of problem based learning and a participatory pedagogic. By independent information retrieval (studies of literature and lectures), combined with hand-in assignments, and presentations of individual assignments, the students are trained in critical evaluation and problem solving. If students have gathered data of their own, it is suitable to use this as a basis for the group assignments.

The course contains the following elements:

- The different stages of the research process, with a focus on qualitative approach, data gathering, analysis of data, and research documentation.
- The significance of gender studies for the development of qualitative method.
- Grounded Theory.
- Descriptive and interpretative phenomenology.
- Phenomenography.
- Narrative method and discourse analysis.
- Quality and validity in qualitative research.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Examination is in the form of individual written assignments and presentations and active participation in discussions in seminars.

Grades

One of the grades Fail (U), Pass (G), or Distinction (VG) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course assessment is based on student views and experiences as reported in written course evaluations and/or group discussions. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of the measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional Information

Students who enrolled before 1 July 2007 will complete their studies in accordance with the requirements of the earlier admission. Upon completion students may request degree and course certificates to be issued under the current ordinance if they meet its requirements.

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor's and Master's levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

The course is a mandatory part of the Master program in Societal Risk Management (SARIS; dnr FAK3 2007/311).

Karlstads universitet 651 88 Karlstad, Sweden
Tel +46-54-700 10 00 Fax +46-54-700 14 60
information@kau.se www.kau.se