



Faculty of Social and Life Sciences
Social Work

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Social and Life Sciences on 29 March 2010, and is valid from the Autumn semester of 2010 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: SMADSM

Methods of Social Science, 7.5 ECTS Credits

(Samhällsvetenskapliga metoder, 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

Swedish

Prerequisites

General requirements for admission to Master's level.

Special requirements: 90 ECTS cr including 15 ECTS cr degree project in a social science major plus upper secondary level Swedish B/Swedish as a second language B and English B, or equivalent

Major Field of Study

SAA ()

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- give an account of the central methodologies in social science and their importance to choice of method and research delimitation,
- give an account of, critically review and analyse various research methods and their application areas,
- develop a holistic view on qualitative and quantitative methods

Skills and abilities

- independently identify and formulate research questions for empirical studies in the social science field,
- independently apply different data collecting methods in the social science field,
- with a high degree of independency analyse collected data quantitatively and qualitatively with relevance to the theoretical frame and problem

Judgement and approach

- independently assess different social science research methods,
- identify and evaluate research ethical problems and argue for their own research ethical positions.

Content and Form of Instruction

The course is offered as modified distance education with two on-campus meetings in Karlstad. Distance education pedagogy is used and students are required to have access to computers and the Internet. At the first

meeting lectures alternate with discussions. A study guide is provided to support individual and active studies.

The course covers the following components:

- theoretical positions on science in the social science field
- research strategies and data collection methods in the social science field
- analytical approaches in social science research
- discussions of complex research ethical principles

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on seminar performance and on an oral and written assignment.

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 course SMAD01 overlaps in some degree with the course SMADST.

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.

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