



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Social Work

Syllabus

Methods of Social Science

Course Code:	SMADSM
Course Title:	Methods of Social Science <i>Samhällsvetenskapliga metoder</i>
Credits:	7.5
Degree Level:	Master's level
Progressive Specialisation:	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

Major Field of Study:
SAA (Social Work)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2017-03-16, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2017 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

Bachelor's degree 180 ECTS cr in social work, social care or social or behavioural sciences.
Upper secondary level Swedish B/3 or Swedish as a second language B/3 and English A/6, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- give an account of the central methodologies in the social sciences and their importance to the choice of method and research delimitation,
- give an account of and critically review various research methods and their application areas,
- give an account of the potentials and limitations of qualitative and quantitative methods,

Competence and skills

- 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, adequately analyse collected data quantitatively and qualitatively,

Judgement and approach

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

Content

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

Instruction is in the form of lectures, application exercises and mandatory seminars.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on a written hand-in assignment.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) 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 evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The course SMADSM cannot be included in the same degree programme as SMAD01.

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

Students are required to have access to an internet connected computer.