



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

SW2373, Research Theories and Methods, 15,0 higher education credits

Research Theories and Methods, 15.0 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

1. Confirmation

The course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2008-03-31 to be valid from 2008-09-01.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100 %

Department: Department of Social Work

2. Position in the educational system

The course, Research Theories and Methods, 15 higher education credits, is a programme course given within the Master's Programme in Social Work and Human Rights within the Faculty of Social Science. The course is a methodology course.

Main field of studies

Social Work

Specialization

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

3. Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course, Research Theories and Methods, 15 higher education credits, a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, or a Bachelor's Degree in related topics, and proficiency in English is required.

4. Course content

The course deals with the following topics:

- Scientific perspectives and paradigm shifts from a historical perspective
- Theoretical concepts concerning both qualitative and quantitative scientific work
- Formulation of research questions and implementation in research
- Review of earlier research using digital resources
- Ethics in social research
- A variety of qualitative and quantitative research methods

5. Learning outcomes

After completing the course the students shall have

- achieved profound knowledge and understanding of scientific perspectives and paradigm shifts from a historical perspective
- achieved a capacity to discuss, analyze, and apply complex theoretical concepts concerning both qualitative and quantitative scientific work in an international context
- be able to formulate and discuss research questions in an independent and creative manner and implement these in research out of a critical perspective
- be able to conduct a critical review of earlier research published in scientific journals or reports
- have gained insight in the role of science, its possibilities and limitations in an international context
- be able to analyze and discuss ethical issues in conducting research
- be able to select, understand, and use complex qualitative and statistical methods in social research
- be able to identify the need of further knowledge in the field of social work.

6. Literature

See appendix.

7. Assessment

There will be an individual examination on the literature. Moreover, there will be additional examinations, both group wise and individually, where different parts of the course will be examined.

A student who has failed a test twice has the right to change examiner, unless weighty argument can be adduced. The application shall be sent to the board of the department and has to be in writing.

8. Grading scale

The grading scale comprises Fail (U), Pass (G), Pass with Distinction (VG).

9. Course evaluation

The course director guarantees that the evaluation is considered regularly and systematically at the end of the course.

10. Additional information

Language of instruction: English.



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

Department of Social Work

SW2373, Research Theories and Methods, 15 credits

Second Cycle

SW2373, Vetenskapliga forskningsteorier och metoder, 15 högskolepoäng
Avancerad nivå

Established by the Board of Department 2008-12-09 with changes 15 November 2013 by the Deputy Head of Department.

Bryman, Alan (2012): *Social Research Methods*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 550 p.

Bryman, Alan & Duncan, Cramer (2011): *Quantitative Data Analysis with IBM SPSS 17, 18 & 19: A Guide for Social Scientists*. London: Routledge. 377 p.

Barron, Karin (1999): "Ethics in Qualitative Social Research on Marginalized Groups" in *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research 1 (1)*, pp 38-49. 11 p.
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15017419909510736#.UoX4SxCMInU>

Charmaz, Kathy: "Grounded Theory Methods in Social Justice Research" in Denzin, Norman K. & Lincoln, Yvonna S.(2011): *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage. pp 359-380. 21 p.

Floersch, Jerry, Longhofer, Jeffrey L., Kranke, Derrick, & Townsend, Lisa (2010): "Integrating Thematic, Grounded Theory and Narrative Analysis: A Case Study of Adolescent Psychotropic Treatment" in *Qualitative Social Work 9 (3)*. pp 407-425. 18 p.
<http://qsw.sagepub.com/content/9/3/407.abstract>

Flyvbjerg, Bent (2006): "Five Misunderstandings About Case-Study Research" in *Qualitative Inquiry 12 (2)*. pp 219-245. 26 p.
<http://qix.sagepub.com/content/12/2/219.full.pdf+html>

Greasley, Pete (2008): *Quantitative Data Analysis Using SPSS: An Introduction for Health and Social Sciences*. Berkshire: Open University Press. 138 p.

Gubrium, Jaber F. & Holstein, James A. (1999): "At the border of Narrative and Ethnography" in *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography 28 (5)*. pp 561-573. 12 p.
<http://jce.sagepub.com/content/28/5/561.refs?patientinform-links=yes&legid=spjce;28/5/561>

Hammersley, Martyn & Atkinson, Paul (2007): *Ethnography: principles in practice*. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. 275 p.

Hollis, Martin (2002): *The philosophy of social science: an introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1-4, 9-11. 158 p.

Homan, Roger (1992): "The Ethics of Open Methods" in *British Journal of Sociology*. Vol 43:3. 321-332. 12 p.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/591538>

Macklin, Ruth (1999): "Understanding Informed Consent" in *Journal of Acta Oncologica*. Vol 38: 1. 83-87. 5 p.

<http://informahealthcare.com/doi/abs/10.1080/028418699431843>

Myers, Greg (1998): "Displaying opinions: Topics and disagreement in focus groups" in *Language in Society* 27 (1). pp 85-111. 26 p.

<http://journals.cambridge.org.ezproxy.ub.gu.se/action/displayFulltext?type=1&fid=28416&jid=LSY&volumeId=27&issueId=01&aid=28415&bodyId=&membershipNumber=&societyETOCSession=>

Prior, Lindsay (2008): "Repositioning Documents in Social Research" in *Sociology* 42 (5). pp 821-836. 15 p.

<http://soc.sagepub.com/content/42/5/821>

Smithson, Janet (2000): "Using and analysing focus groups: limitations and possibilities" in *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* 3 (2). pp 103-119. 16 p.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/136455700405172#.UoYMaxCMIu>

Additional literature will be individually assigned for exercises and examination (approx. 300p).