



COURSE SYLLABUS

Theory of Science and Scientific Methods in Child Studies, 15 credits

Theory of Science and Scientific Methods in Child Studies, 15 högskolepoäng

Course Code: LTSR28	Education Cycle: Second-cycle level
Confirmed by: Director of Education May 28, 2018	Disciplinary domain: Health sciences (75%) and education (25%)
Revised by: Director of Education Apr 14, 2021	Subject group: BU2
Valid From: Autumn 2021	Specialised in: A1N
Version: 2	Main field of study: Child Studies

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

On completion of the course, the student should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- describe and explain qualitative and quantitative research methods for the child studies
- describe ethical considerations relevant for designing and conducting research in child studies

Skills and abilities

- apply descriptive and analytical statistics
- independently apply qualitative and quantitative research methods on data for interventions in childhood
- independently develop and write a research design
- conduct interviews and data analysis using qualitative research approach

Judgement and approach

- evaluate the quality of scientific studies using different design approaches in relation to conclusions drawn.
- critically reflect on the relation between research problem, theory and methods in empirical study

Contents

- Research design and research process
- Quantitative research and statistical methods
- Qualitative research methods
- Interviews and analysis
- Systematic reviews: protocols, evaluation tools
- Quality assessment of articles
- Planning a research design for the one-year master thesis
- Library search

Type of instruction

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and exercises performed individually and in groups.

An e-learning platform is used.

Students who have been admitted to and registered for a course have the right to receive instruction/supervision for the duration of the time period specified for the particular course to which they were accepted. After that, the right to receive instruction/supervision expires.

The teaching is conducted in English.

Prerequisites

The applicant must hold the minimum of a bachelor's degree (i.e. the equivalent of 180 ECTS credits at an accredited university) within health and care sciences, behavioural science, social work, or educational sciences, including independent, theoretical based work - i.e. a thesis or equivalent. English proficiency is required. Exemption is granted from the requirement in Swedish.

Examination and grades

The course is graded A, B, C, D, E, FX or F.

The grades A, B, C, D and E are all passing grades. For courses with more than one element of examination, students are given a final grade based on an overall assessment of all the elements included in the course. The final grade of the course is issued only when all elements of examination have been passed.

The examination is based on instruction and course literature.

Forms of examination:

- *Individual written assignments of Quantitative and qualitative research methods*
- *Seminar*
- *Thesis planning (PM)*

The examination must allow for students to be assessed on an individual basis. Further information concerning assessment of specific intended learning outcomes and grading criteria is provided in a study guide distributed at the beginning of the course.

To receive the final grade of A the student needs to receive pass for the seminar and A for individual assignments.

Students are guaranteed a minimum of three attempts to pass an examination, including the regular attempt.

If a student has failed the same examination three times, the student is entitled to request that the next examination be assessed and graded by a new examiner. The decision to accept or reject such a request is made by the vice dean of education. A student may not make a second attempt

at any examination already passed in order to receive a higher grade.

In case a course is terminated or significantly altered, examination according to the earlier syllabus shall be offered on at least two occasions in the course of one year after the termination/alteration.

Registration of examination:

Name of the Test	Value	Grading
Individual written assignment 1	5 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F
Individual written assignment 2	5 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F
Seminar ¹	2 credits	U/G
Thesis Planning	3 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F

¹ The examination is graded Fail (U) or Pass (G)

Course evaluation

The instruction is followed up throughout the course. At the end of the course, a course evaluation is performed and commented on by the course coordinator and, if possible, a student representative/student representatives (course developer/s).

The evaluation, which is published on the relevant e-learning platform and submitted to the administration, is to function as a basis for future improvements to the course.

Course literature

Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2013). *Successful qualitative research: A practical guide for beginners*. Sage. 150 selected pages

Creswell, J.W. (2014). *Research design. Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*, Fourth Edition. California: SAGE. 150 selected pages

Field, A. P. (2018). *Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS statistics* (5. ed. ed.). London: Sage Publications. 150 selected pages

Jesson, Jill, Matheson, Lydia, & Lacey, Fiona M. (2011). *Doing your literature review: Traditional and systematic techniques*. London: Sage. 150 selected pages

Kvale, S., & Brinkmann, S. (2008). *InterViews: Learning the Craft of Qualitative Research Interviewing*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE publications. 250 pages

Okasha, S. (2016) *Philosophy of Science: Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 140 pages

Palant, J. (2014). *The SPSS Survival Manual*. United Kingdom: Open University Press. 352 pages

Powell, M. A., Fitzgerald, R. M., Taylor, N., & Graham, A. (2012). *International literature review: Ethical issues in undertaking research with children and young people*. On-line source available.

Suri, H. (2020). *Ethical Considerations of Conducting Systematic Reviews in Educational Research*. In O. Zawacki-Richter, M. Kerres, S. Bedenlier, B. Melissa, & E. Buntins Katja (Eds.), *Systematic Reviews in Educational Research. Methodology, Perspectives and Application* (pp. 41-54): Springer

In addition to listed course texts there will be, in accordance with lecturers' recommendations, reports, articles and internet resources proposed to supplement the texts above

Citing Sources – How to Create Literature References

ju.se/library/search--write/citing-sources---how-to-create-literature-references.html

The Interactive Anti-Plagiarism Guide – Jönköping University

Information about plagiarism at higher education institutions

Available in the course event on the e-learning platform Canvas