



## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND WORK SCIENCE

### **SF30006 Qualitative data analysis and conceptualization, 7.5 credits**

Kvalitativ dataanalys och konceptualisering, 7,5 högskolepoäng

*Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå*

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#### **Confirmation**

This syllabus was confirmed by the Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2019-11-05, and is valid from Autumn semester 2019.

#### ***Responsible Department***

Department of Sociology and Work Science, Faculty of Social Sciences

#### **Entry requirements**

Qualifying applicants are persons admitted to postgraduate studies at the University of Gothenburg or another university. To be eligible for the course, the applicant must have obtained a passing grade for a social scientific research methods course at the second-cycle level, corresponding to at least 15 higher education credits, or equivalent.

#### **Learning outcomes**

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

##### ***Knowledge and understanding***

- Identify and discuss differences between traditions within qualitative social science including their methods for data analysis and conceptualization.
- Develop knowledge based arguments for selection of research design, method for data analysis and generalization of research findings.
- Understand the implication of, and argue for, choice of method for qualitative data analysis and conceptualisation in relation to own thesis project.

##### ***Competence and skills***

- Apply central analytical steps within two types of methods for analysis and conceptualization.

- Motivate and argue for choices of techniques to ensure quality control of both the research process and research results.
- Explain the principles of computer assisted qualitative analysis and apply them in practice on own thesis material or equivalent.
- With a high level of autonomy present and defend, verbally and in writing, scientific approaches and achieved research results.
- With a high level of autonomy discuss and problematise others' methods for analysis and conceptualization of research findings.

### ***Judgement and approach***

- Reflect upon how his/her own thesis work relates to traditions in qualitative social science research.
- Discuss and evaluate different methods for data analysis and conceptualization including relevance in relation to the own research problem.
- Discuss and evaluate qualitative social science research in a research ethics perspective.
- Describe and problematise how scholarly integrity is ensured in the thesis work.

## **Course content**

The course provides comprehensive and in-depth knowledge of design choices as well as methods for analysis and conceptualization/theorizing. During the course knowledge turns into skills through the course's application exercises when course participants analyze empirical materials under the guidance of course teachers.

The course consists of both core and elective parts, as well as a series of workshops. By way of introduction, the course addresses traditions in qualitative social science research, focussing on research design, sampling, methods for analysis and conceptualization/theorizing, as well as standards concerning quality, ethics and integrity. Then the PhD-student participates in two specialization modules, both of which deal with design, analysis and conceptualization, but in different ways. The course concludes with a seminar where the students present papers and provide feedback on other students' work. A parallel series of workshops give an introduction to and training in transcribing and analysing qualitative data using computer-supported software.

## **Types of instruction**

The forms of instruction are lectures, seminars and workshops.

### ***Language of instruction***

The course is given in English.

## **Grades**

The grade Pass (G) or Fail (U) is given in this course.

## **Types of assessment**

Student performance is assessed as follows:

- The first part of the course and the selected specialisation modules are examined by having each student write two papers and at the end of the course present these and comment on a fellow student's work at a final seminar.
- The student will also be expected to complete exercise assignments and written assignments in the specialisation modules.
- Application of computer-supported software for analysis of qualitative data is examined via a final exercise in the workshop series.

For the course grade of Pass (G), the student must be awarded a passing grade on all assessed course activities.

## Course evaluation

The course is to be evaluated by the students upon completion, and the evaluation results, including any resulting changes, are to be reported in connection with the subsequent course start.