SK30002 Research Design, 7.5 credits
Forskningsdesign, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation
This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Political Science on 2018-09-28, and is valid from Autumn semester 2018.

Responsible department/Equivalent
Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences

Entry requirements
Students enrolled at the doctoral level in political science or other corresponding areas are eligible for the course.

Learning outcomes
After completion of the course the doctoral student shall:

Knowledge and understanding
• Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the different research design logics.
• Understand the implications of different ontological assumptions for the choice of research questions and the suitability of research designs
• Understand how different research questions are related to different designs
• Gain knowledge about publishing patterns in Political Science

Competence and skills
• Develop the student’s own formulation of a research problem and question anchored in previous research
• Adequately discuss the advantages and disadvantages of different designs of one's own project
• Argue for the most appropriate design of their study
Judgment and approach

- Identify and critically assess ethical issues related to research on human behaviour.
- Evaluate the construction and feasibility of different kinds of research questions and designs

Course content

Questions about scientific research design are the focus of the course. In order to be able to design a study it is required, however, to specify very clearly which particular research question/s will be answered in the PhD thesis. The course will thus work on the connections between the research question and the research design.

The course will mostly take the form of group tutorials, with discussions on both how previous research has been conducted (for instance, in the field or sub-field of interest of each student) and how PhD candidates aim to address their own research design. The course includes a discussion of possible techniques for data collection, but the particularities of different analysis techniques (such as interviews or statistical analysis techniques) are outside the scope of the course.

Types of instruction

Lectures and seminars

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

The student’s performance is assessed by
1. The assignments for each seminar session
2. The PhD candidate’s own proposal of research design.
3. The written (and oral, during the seminar) peer-review of all the other PhD candidates’ proposal of research design.

Course evaluation

A course evaluation will be conducted at the end of the course. The responsible teacher will report the results.