



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

SK30003 Applied methods, 7.5 credits

Tillämpade metoder, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation

This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Political Science on 2018-09-19, and is valid from Spring semester 2017.

Responsible department/equivalent

Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences

Entry requirements

A student who is enrolled in studies at the doctoral level is eligible for the course.

Learning outcomes

A student who successfully completes the course will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- identify and analyse advantages and disadvantages of different research methods, in relation to a given research task.
- identify and analyse specific problems in relation to the chosen method, given the specific research question and overall research design.

Competence and skills

- handle methodological problems during the concrete application of the chosen method
- communicate to an academic audience on methodological issues

Judgment and approach

- evaluate the outcome of the application, i.e. reflect over advantages and disadvantages with the applied method on the basis of the research task conducted

Course content

The aim of the course is to give the doctoral students advanced abilities to make methodological judgments, by choosing the right tool in the methodological toolbox for their PhD project, evaluate the specific pros and cons of the method chosen, assess these pros and cons in relation to their own project and to other studies, concretely apply the chosen method to a limited research task, and evaluate the results. Particular attention will be given to the handling of any generally problems that the chosen method may have, and specific problems that are raised in relation to the concrete application to the PhD project.

Types of instruction

The course consists of an introduction, four seminars with the group of doctoral students and the course responsible teacher, and a final workshop (metodinternat) together with doctoral students and teachers at other Swedish political science departments. The teaching is based on seminars led by a teacher, where the doctoral students describe and discuss their own and each other's identification and handling of specific methodological problems. The doctoral students are expected to submit a course paper, and present and discuss this paper at the final workshop.

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 is assessed by means of the course paper and the active participation at the seminars and the workshop.

Course evaluation

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