



INSTITUTE OF NEUROSCIENCE AND PHYSIOLOGY

SN00057, Qualitative methods in a psychiatric coercive and forensic psychiatric context, 3 credits

Kvalitativa metoder i psykiatrisk tvångsvårds- och rättspsykiatrisk kontext, 3 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation

This syllabus was confirmed by the Council for PhD Education at Sahlgrenska Academy on 2026-03-13, and is valid from Autumn semester 2026.

Responsible Department

Institute of Neuroscience and Physiology, Sahlgrenska Academy

Entry requirements

Enrolled in doctoral education or holding a PhD in a relevant subject. The course is an elective course within the doctoral education at the Sahlgrenska Academy.

Learning outcomes

After completing the course the doctoral student is expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Recount qualitative methods and the possibilities and challenges related to these in the context of coercive psychiatric care and forensic psychiatry

Competence and skills

- Formulate possible qualitative research questions in the context of coercive psychiatric care and forensic psychiatry, and discuss how these could be approached
- Plan qualitative co-creative research, taking into account the ethical dilemmas that may

arise in the context of coercive psychiatric care and forensic psychiatry

- Analyze qualitative data under supervision
- Critically review and understand different qualitative data analyses based on their respective premises and conditions

Judgement and approach

- Reflect on how the research process is shaped by different theoretical perspectives, views of knowledge, and preconceptions
- Evaluate qualitative research studies with regard to their purpose, method, and underlying view of knowledge

Course content

The aim of the course is to increase doctoral students' theoretical and practical knowledge of qualitative research methods used in the context of coercive psychiatric care and forensic psychiatry, as well as the ethical dilemmas that may arise in these contexts. Further, to enhance understanding of how to conduct qualitative research in collaboration with service users. The course will provide knowledge about different qualitative methods in relation to research aims. In addition, it will cover the possibilities and challenges involved in conducting qualitative studies within the context of coercive psychiatric care and forensic psychiatry.

The course will focus on the planning and implementation of clinically applied qualitative research, with a co-creative approach, in the context of coercive psychiatric care and forensic psychiatry. Ethical issues will be a recurring theme throughout the course.

Types of instruction

The course includes one week of on-campus meetings and a total of one week of independent distance work. The course includes lectures, seminars, workshops, group work, and self-studies. Relevant documentation, such as lectures, a bibliography, and assignments, will be presented on the digital platform CANVAS.

Language of instruction

The course is given in Swedish

The course is given in Swedish.

Grades

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

Types of assessment

All parts of the course are mandatory (preparatory web test, attendance at lectures and seminars, workshops, group work with presentation and submission of written individual assignment). Individual data analyzes and group work is orally presented and discussed at an examination seminar. Individual work is presented in writing. In the event of absence from mandatory elements, the student is responsible for contacting the course supervisor to be served with an alternative examination task. If a PhD student who has failed the same examining course component twice requests a change of examiner before the next examination session, the request should be sent in writing to the department responsible for the course, and granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22, Higher Education Ordinance).

Course evaluation

The course evaluation will be provided as an anonymous written questionnaire (joint for Sahlgrenska Academy) with both multiple-choice questions and the option to make comments in free text. Further, evaluation will be performed orally as a discussion between the students and the course leader(s). The course-responsible teacher compiles an analysis of the course evaluation and makes suggestions for further course development. The result and any changes in the course setup shall be communicated to both the students who carried out the evaluation and those who are about to start the course