Course Information for Research Methods 7.5 ECTS Fall 2024 (half time)

The purpose of this course is twofold: First, students are expected to acquire a better understanding of the conceptual, methodological and practical issues relevant to their research interests, and second, students are expected to plan their Master's thesis project (see grading criteria below). The course includes three seminars at the beginning, an assignment with feedback during the course and a final plan presented at a teacher-led workshop at the end. Otherwise, students work independently. At the start of the course, the students are expected to have a research topic and have made first contact with their thesis supervisor.

During the course, each student produces a thesis proposal, **six to eight page**s, including a shortlist of key texts. A draft is due midway through the course. The course teachers will provide feedback on this. A developed draft is due towards the end and presented at the workshop. The final proposal is then due on the last day of the term. Each student will provide feedback to the drafts of two other students at the workshop and turn in a written version of this. Seminars and workshop are compulsory (see schedule). There may be additional assignments related to the seminars.

The grade is based on the quality of the master's thesis proposal, participation in seminars and the feedback on the developed drafts of other students. The main criteria are:

Clearly defined research question, motivation and feasibility,
Reviewing of relevant theories and previous research,
Critical engagement with the literature, including the required readings,
Convincing and logical argument, which leads to the research question,
Clearly described and feasible research design,
Clear description of data and methods as relating to the research question
Clearly stated awareness of the ethical problems involved
Constructive and well-argued criticism and evaluation of other student´s proposals

Teachers:

Andrea Voyer andrea.voyer@sociology.su.se (course responsible)

Ilze Lace ilze.lace@sociology.su.se

Required readings

The main reading for this course will be literature related to your chosen topic. Each student is responsible for identifying texts and other material relevant to their proposal, eventually with support from the supervisor(s).

Suggested readings

In addition to the specific material for your topic, we offer additional materials that can help you in thinking about research design and the research process.

- Successful research grant proposals from the department of sociology (available on Athena)
- Edwards, M.E. 2015. *Writing in sociology*. Second Edition. Los Angeles: SAGE
- https://libris.kb.se/bib/22453973
- Committee on the Conduct of Science, National Academy of Sciences. 2009. *On Being a Scientist*. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press. Also downloadable in pieces at https://www.nap.edu/catalog/12192/on-being-a-scientist-a-guide-to-responsible-conduct-in
- Becker,H.S. 2007. "Freshman English for graduate students: A memoir and two theories." Pp. 1-25 in H. S. Becker, *Writing for Social Scientists*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press https://libris.kb.se/bib/11896307
- Becker, H.S. 2007. "Terrorized by the literature." Pp. 135-149 in H. S. Becker, *Writing for Social Scientists*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press https://libris.kb.se/bib/11896307
- Gustafsson, Bengt, Göran Hermerén, and Bo Petersson. *Vad är god forskningssed?* Vetenskapsrådets Rapportserie 2005:1 http://liu.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:255775/FULLTEXT01.pdf
- White, Lynn. 2005. "Writes of passage: Writing an empirical journal article." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 67: 791-798. http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/3600238

Schedule

Tuesday, November 5, kl. 13-15	Introduction	Andrea
Tuesday, November 12, kl. 9.30-12	Elements of a Research Proposal	Andrea
Friday, November 22, kl.17	First drafts of proposal due on Athena	
Tuesday, November 26, kl. 13-15	Research Ethics	Andrea
Friday December 2, kl.17	Feedback distributed	
Week of December 9	Optional meeting	
	Sign up with Ilze: https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/ep7DnErd	
	Sign up with Andrea: https://calendar.app.google/oEN66Zt43eZKkAks7	
Wednesday, December 18, kl.17	Developed draft proposals due on Athena	
Friday, December 20, kl.17	Opposition assignments distributed	
Thursday, January 9, kl. 13-17	Draft proposal workshop	Andrea
Thursday, January 16, kl.17	Final proposal due on Athena	