



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet  
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

# SLUkurs

## Syllabus

**PNG0058 Analytical reading and writing, 6.0 credits**

## Syllabus approved

2014-06-17

## Subjects

Other Social Science

## Education cycle

Third cycle

## Grading scale

Pass / Failed

The requirements for attaining different grades are described in the course assessment criteria which are contained in a supplement to the course syllabus. Current information on assessment criteria shall be made available at the start of the course.

## Language

English

## Prior knowledge

Registered PhD student whatever the discipline.

## Objective, including learning outcomes

The specific learning outcomes from the course are expected to be to develop participant's abilities to:

- think critically and to clearly express thoughts in writing

- look for alternative explanations, analyse arguments, look for and test assumptions and consider counter examples
- organise ideas, arguments and evidence into linear progression and systematically test the structure for holes or weaknesses in the analysis or evidence
- develop the structure of an article and the style in which it is written

In general the course will increase participants' understanding of what analytical and scholarly reading and writing is all about, and of strategies and practices for becoming more effective writers. It will also increase participant's knowledge of academic publishing.

## **Content**

The course examines the most challenging aspects of scholarly writing and publishing, and is appropriate at the earliest stages of PhD study. The course will provide opportunities to learn about and develop skills at every stage of academic writing, from first ideas to getting published.

The course is organised around a series of study blocks which will progressively over a year help support the writing process. Each block comprises individual preparation, lectures, group-based and individual exercises, presentations, and critical feedback, and follow up writing.

- Block 1. Interpretation of questions to be addressed and determination of the thesis to be presented: considering the intended scientific contribution. Principles of critical thinking and self-critical writing will be introduced. The personal and contextual aspects of becoming an academic writer are explored.
- Block 2. Preparatory research: reviewing literature. Principles of critical reading will be introduced.
- Block 3. Planning the article: organisation of ideas, arguments, supporting claims and evidence into a narrative. Testing the line of argument.
- Block 4. Writing: developing the structure and the style of writing.
- Block 5. Revision: different practices of revising text.
- Block 6. Academic publishing: Focus on the peer review system, reviewing academic texts for academic journals, handling editorial decisions and making revisions and resubmissions.

Course timetable

Week 1: Blocks 1 and 2

Week 2: Block 3

Week 3: Block 4

Week 4: Blocks 5 and 6

Each week of the course will include two working days with the course tutors and three days of individual/peer group work.

### **Requirements for examination**

A written assignment, which could be a draft article or an analysis of two written texts.

### **Additional information**

This course is organized within the research school Society, Landscape and Land Use at the Department of Urban and Rural Development at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

### **Responsible department**

Department of Urban and Rural Development