



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet  
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

# SLUkurs

## Syllabus

**PNS0043 Case Study Methodology, 4.5 credits**

## Syllabus approved

2009-01-28

## Subjects

Landscape Planning

## 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

Accepted as a post graduate student in landscape architecture, architecture or equivalent subject.

## Objective, including learning outcomes

Case studies have developed within social the sciences and are frequently used in fields such as architecture, planning, economics, law, management, education

and environmental studies. A point of departure for the course is that a case study is defined by the choice of object to study, rather than by the choice of a methodology. Different methodologies to study unique cases—a case understood as functioning totality—will be discussed.

Upon completion of the course, the PhD-students shall:

- be able to design a case study;
- demonstrate knowledge in case selection, case analysis and validation of results;
- be able to discuss and explain some principles for drawing conclusions from case studies.

## **Content**

The course consists of

An introduction to the case study as a strategy of research in comparison with other strategies,

Lectures on case study methodologies, and

An individual assignment that will be discussed in a seminar.

Some of the issues that will be discussed are:

What is a case and what kind of questions can be addressed by a case study? In a case study the case is purposefully selected. How can it be done? Triangulation is an important procedure to validate a case study. How is it done? How is data collected and how to analyse data? One question that is often raised when unique phenomena are studied is:

How to generalize from a case? Finally the structure of a case study report is discussed.

One assignment is included in the course. There are three optional subjects for the assignment to choose between:

To write an outline of the methods chapter of your thesis,

To make a critical review of a published case study. The review shall have a focus on methodological issues.

To review a book on case study methodology and compare it with the course books.

The assignments will be presented and discussed in seminars.

This course is independent of but complementary to the course 'PNG0018 Modern research

Methods' given within APULA and the research school 'Northern Ruralities in Transition'.

A lecture on Case Study Methodology was included in the 'Modern research methods' course. To prepare participants that has not taken the general methodology course, this course will include an introductory lecture summing up the content of the previous lecture.

### **Requirements for examination**

For successful completion of the course the PhD candidate must fulfil: active participation in lectures, discussions and tutored exercise, approved results on assignments.

### **Additional information**

### **Responsible department**

Department of Urban and Rural Development