

SLUkurs

Syllabus

PNG0047 Modern Research Methods for post-graduate students, 7.5 credits

Syllabus approved

2013-04-18

Subjects

Rural Development

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

To have been accepted as a post graduate student at a university department.

Objective, including learning outcomes

This course will provide Ph.D-students with skills on how to conduct research on issues that are relevant to urban and rural development and natural resource management. The course will cover methods including the use of qualitative methods

for data collection, the analysis of sources, how to conduct surveys and action research and how to reflect critically on your research. The course will focus on the relationship between research questions and the criteria for the choice of the methods. Upon completion of the course, the Ph.D-students shall:

- be able to evaluate and critically discuss strengths and weaknesses of different research methods;
- be able to delineate a relevant empirical field and material in relation to a given research question;
- demonstrate practical knowledge in the use of different research methods to establish relevant empirical material in relation to the analysis of specific research questions;
- be able to discuss and explain the meaning of terms such as "general" and "representative" in relation to empirical studies;
- be able to determine whether or not a problem or a question is open to scientific analysis.

Content

The course will consist of a series of lectures introducing different methods such as participant observation, case-studies, the analysis and evaluation of sources, discourse analysis, various forms of interviews, participatory rural appraisal (PRA) and action research. Students will demonstrate their understanding of different ways of conducting research by conducting various forms of practical exercises, based on the methods of the course. They will also start planning which methodological approach and which methods they intend to use for their forthcoming PhD-research. The experiences from the exercises will provide the necessary feedback during seminar discussions. The course will also discuss ethical questions emanating from the different methods applied and the specific fields where research is conducted.

Requirements for examination

Written exam, presentations and exercises.

For successful completion of the course the student must pass: the approved examination, conduct the compulsory exercises and participate actively in the seminars.

Additional information

The 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