



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

SLUkurs

Syllabus

PNG0018 Modern Research Methods I, 4.0 credits

Syllabus approved

2008-08-18

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

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 rural development and natural resource management. The course will cover methods including the use of qualitative methods for data

collection, the analysis of sources, and how to conduct surveys and statistical analysis. 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, statistical analysis, discourse analysis, surveys, and various forms of interviews. Students will demonstrate their understanding of different ways of conducting research by conducting various forms of practical exercises on participant observations, and interviews. They will also start planning which methods they intend to use for their research. The experiences from the exercises will provide the necessary feedback during seminar discussions. The course will also discuss ethical questions in connection with field work especially when studying society.

Requirements for examination

Written and/or oral exam, presentations and exercises.

For successful completion of the course the Ph.D-student must pass: approved examinations, participate in lectures and other compulsory sessions in the course.

Additional information

SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Urban and Rural Development. P.O. Box 7012

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Responsible department

Department of Urban and Rural Development