

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Systematic Reviews
Systematiska översikter

**7.5 Higher Education
Credits**
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	SO7200
Valid from:	Autumn 2021
Date of approval:	2008-09-25
Changed:	2021-03-23
Department	Department of Sociology
Main field:	Sociology
Specialisation:	AXX - Second cycle, in-depth level of the course cannot be classified

Decision

The syllabus is approved by the Board of the Department of Sociology as of September 25 2008, revised April 26 2016. last revised 2021-03-23. Technical revision by the Student Department 2019-04-02.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor's degree, English 6 or equivalent

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
1M25	Systematic Reviews	7.5

Course content

It is becoming more common that public policy interventions should be based on best available evidence. The purpose of a systematic review is to sum up the best available research evidence on a specific question. This is done by synthesising the results of several studies in a systematic and transparent manner. Participants will explore the range of existing approaches to, and methods for, research synthesis. The course will provide hands-on experience of commonly used methods (including the procedures proposed by the Campbell/Cochrane Collaborations). The course uses material from a range of policy areas and will explore different kinds of review questions. Participants will be introduced to different methods for synthesising both a range of study designs and qualitative and quantitative data, although there is an emphasis on synthesising quantitative data (meta-analysis). To help participants consider the role played by systematic reviews in policy and practice decisions, this course also includes discussion of the opportunities and challenges that systematic reviews pose.

Learning outcomes

After having completed the course, students are expected to be able to:

- possess thorough knowledge of the steps in the systematic review process (problem formulation, identification and selection of studies, data extraction, synthesis, dissemination).
- critically appraise and interpret meta-analyses of quantitative research evidence.
- understand the fundamental problems related to internal and external validity, and be able to reflect and argue for its consequences for applying social science research in practice.
- conduct oneself critical to the role played by systematic reviews in policy and practice decisions.
- Be able to update (replicate) a systematic review

Education

Course participants and instructors meet approximately twice a week for lectures, group discussions, computer-based exercises and/or seminars. The lectures/seminars cover topics not necessarily addressed in the required readings. Lectures should accordingly be viewed as a complement to the mandatory literature. Participation in group discussions is mandatory. In order to enhance the learning outcomes, students need to be up to date on previously acquired skills in descriptive statistics and basic multivariate quantitative methods. The course is offered in English.

Forms of examination

The course is examined through individual assignments:

1. Update a systematic overview (in group)
2. Peer review (individual)
3. Individual reflection (individual) Tasks 1 and 3 are assessed on a three-point scale (satisfactory, minor deficiencies, unsatisfactory) in different dimensions and are weighted together to form grades A-F. Assignment 2 is assessed on a two-point scale (satisfactory, unsatisfactory), where "satisfactory" is required to achieve an E or higher in the course.

Plagiarism, cheating and unauthorized collaboration (collusion)

As a student, you are responsible for knowing the regulations in relation to examinations and similar situations. Extensive information is available at the website of the Department of Sociology as well as the Stockholm University website (www.su.se/rules). Teachers are obliged to report suspected cheating or plagiarism. If suspicions can be confirmed it will be brought before the Disciplinary Committee and may lead to suspension. Example of plagiarism is to copy a text or sentences, word by word or close to, without referring to the source. This applies also to text of your own previous writing. Cheating includes bringing unauthorized aids to a sit-in exam, such as mobile phones. To form study groups together with fellow students is enriching and time saving, but when it comes to examinations you need to be meticulous about working independently (if not otherwise instructed) to avoid collusion.

Limitations

Students can request to be examined in accordance with this syllabus up to three semesters after it has ceased to be valid. Such request should be sent to the Director of Studies.

Required reading

Current bibliography is available no later than two months before the start of the course.