

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Master's Thesis
Specialarbete

**30.0 Higher Education
Credits**
30.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	SAM212
Valid from:	Spring 2016
Date of approval:	2011-09-13
Changed:	2015-11-30
Department	Department of Social Anthropology
Main field:	Social Anthropology
Specialisation:	A2E - Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Decision

Syllabus approved by the departmental board 2009-03-25

Decision to establish education plans has been delegated, Faculty of Social Sciences, 2011-09-13

Syllabus revised by the departmental board 2015-12-07

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelors' degree in Social Anthropology or equivalent in the Social and Cultural sciences, including the following Master courses in anthropology: Philosophy of Science for anthropologists, History of anthropological theory, Key themes in contemporary social anthropology, Anthropological method, and Anthropological fieldwork. English B.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
M212	Master's Thesis	30

Course content

During the course, the student carries out an independent scientific study of a social anthropological subject in the form of a written examination of a minimum of 20,000 and a maximum of 25,000 words. Each student is assigned a supervisor to help with the research which is part of the course and the writing of the thesis. The course is concluded with a seminar at which the student defends the thesis and is an opponent on a fellow student's thesis.

Learning outcomes

After having completed the course the student will be able to:

Independently and critically identify and formulate social anthropological research questions

Plan and carry out, using adequate methods, a piece of scientific work within the specified time frame

Verbally and in writing clearly present and discuss findings and the knowledge and arguments that underlie them, as well as identify new areas for research and theory formulation within anthropology

Independently carry out a scientific study and display those skills needed to take part in anthropological research and development work, or to work in another qualified area within the discipline and within a given time frame

Judge the relevance and applicability of social anthropological knowledge to current problems and questions of a scientific and social nature.

Education

Teaching consists of individual supervision and seminars.

Forms of examination

The course is examined in the form of an independently produced thesis, and a completed seminar at which the students defend their own theses and act as opponents on a fellow student's thesis. The student is expected to contribute actively to the discussion and show that they have reflected on their own and their fellow student's thesis.

The thesis primarily provides the basis for awarding a grade of A-F. For the final grade of A on the course, a grade of A for the thesis and a very well presented opposition is required. In the case of other grades, the opposition can determine the final grade in marginal cases (a well performed opposition can result in a higher grade for the course).

A

Innovative choice of research problem and/or analysis and interpretation. New and valuable results. A very convincing scientific argument. Clear ties between relevant materials, including ethnography if the student has carried out an independent piece of fieldwork, that correspond well with theory and method used.

Independent work that displays good knowledge of and is related to previous research.

Very clear and logical disposition. Stringent language, very rigorous method, notation, and referencing of literature and sources. The thesis is completed within the given time frame.

B

Stringent and well formulated research questions, convincing analysis/interpretation and scientific argumentation. New results. Clear links between relevant and well circumscribed materials, including ethnography if the student has carried out an independent piece of fieldwork, that correspond with theory and method used. Independent piece of work which displays knowledge of and is related to previous research.

Clear and logical disposition. Stringent language. Correct and reliable method, argumentation, notation, and referencing of literature and sources. The thesis is completed within the given time frame.

C

Well executed analysis/interpretation and scientific argumentation. Partially new results. The research questions and investigation, including ethnography if the student has carried out an independent piece of fieldwork, and the analysis are closely related to each other. Ties to previous research. Nuanced reflections on the relation between the research questions, theory, method and empirical material. Clear use of language and clear disposition.

D

The research questions, investigation and analysis/interpretation are related to each other in an acceptable manner. Expected results. Some ties to previous research. Some reflection on the relationship between research questions, theory, method and empirical material. Relatively clear use of language. Disposition works sufficiently well.

E

The thesis shows signs of an ability to formulate an anthropological research question and to analyze relevant material. Sufficient ties between the research question, investigation and analysis/interpretation. Acceptable use of language. Disposition works sufficiently well.

Fx

One or more of the following shortcomings: Research questions, investigation and analysis not coherently related to each other and/or vaguely formulated. Weak links to previous research, theory and method. Language difficulties. Problematic disposition.

F

One or more of the following shortcomings: The thesis has not been submitted. The research question cannot be answered by the theory, method and empirical material used in a thesis of that length.

The opposition equivalent to level:

A-B

Very thorough summation of another thesis. Task carried out independently with important suggestions for improvement. Relevant priority given to central and peripheral problems in the thesis. Thorough examination of the scientific methods and conclusions.

C-D-E

Thorough summation of another thesis where both strengths and weaknesses are discussed. Central and peripheral problems in the thesis not always sufficiently identified. Examination of scientific method.

Fx

Inadequate summation of another thesis. Obvious strengths and shortcomings not identified. Inappropriate priority given to central and peripheral problems in the thesis.

Required reading

Course literature is chosen in consultation with the supervisor.