

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Introduction to Quantitative Research Design**  
**Introduktion till kvantitativ forskningsdesign**

**7.5 Higher Education  
Credits**  
**7.5 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	SOB701
<b>Valid from:</b>	Spring 2019
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2018-09-12
<b>Department</b>	Department of Sociology
<b>Main field:</b>	Sociology
<b>Specialisation:</b>	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

## Decision

The course plan is determined by the board of the Department of Sociology at Stockholm University 2018-09-12

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Degree of at least 180 credits including an independent project, English 6

## Course structure

<b>Examination code</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Higher Education Credits</b>
1UM1	Introduction to Quantitative Research Design	7.5

## Course content

The purpose of the course is to provide students with some simple tools to perform and evaluate basic research and published research results. A considerable part of the course deals with the connection between theory and method, and the students get tools to independently evaluate and choose a research question and an appropriate research design. The conceptual foundations of the research are described together with criteria for concept definition and assessment. The difference between sociological description and causality is described and discussed. Research-related ethical issues will also be addressed. The latter half of the course includes an introduction to the handling of quantitative data and statistical analysis. Common sources of error in existing datasets are discussed and investigated with simple sensitivity analyses.

An important (non-examable) feature of the course is to increase interaction among the students and promote collaboration. Group work is part of the course and the examination thereof and participation in group work/discussions is mandatory. Group work is used during course assignments and when discussing scientific articles. The students must also individually read, refer to and report in writing and orally on a scientific article chosen in consultation with the course supervisor. The oral as well as the written presentation provides practical practice in getting to know and reporting on other people's research in such a way that it becomes comprehensible to others.

## Learning outcomes

After completing the course, the students are expected to: - be able to describe what distinguishes a well-founded theory/hypothesis and an empirically testable research question - have a good knowledge of how to find relevant literature and previous research in a given field - have a good knowledge of basic concepts in sociological theory and method - be able to argue for and assess the pros and cons of different research

designs and methods to answer different research questions - be able to explain the differences between a descriptive and a causal analysis and have knowledge of the most common statistical analyzes in each field - be able to critically summarize and evaluate an empirically based study - have basic knowledge of Stata programming and documentation - have an understanding of and be able to detect basic sources of error in quantitative data materials - be able to perform, account for and interpret a couple of commonly used basic statistical analyzes - be able to critically reflect on research ethics issues and related questions.

### **Education**

Teaching is carried out in the form of lectures, computer-based exercises, group discussions and seminars. In cases where the teaching is compulsory, this is shown in the schedule. The teaching is done in English.

### **Forms of examination**

a. The course assignments are examined through documented group discussions, individual course assignments, computer-based group exercises and written and oral reports of journal articles based on empirical studies. b. Grading takes place according to a target-related seven-point grading scale: A = Excellent B = Very good C = Good D = Satisfactory E = Sufficient Fx = Insufficient F = Totally inadequate In order to receive a passing grade on the course, a minimum grade of E is required on all examination tasks, completed mandatory tasks and completed attendance. The written grading criteria are communicated to the students at the start of the course. c. Students who received the grade Fx or F have the right to undergo further examination as long as the course is given to achieve the lowest grade E. Students who received the lowest grade E may not undergo renewed examination for a higher grade. Students who have been graded Fx or F twice by an examiner have the right to request that another examiner be appointed to determine the grade. The petition to this effect must be made to the director of studies. Students can request that examinations according to this syllabus be carried out up to three semesters after it has ceased to apply. The petition to this effect must be made to the director of studies. Plagiarism, cheating and unauthorized collaboration Part of your responsibility as a student includes knowing the rules that exist for examinations. Detailed information is available on both the department's and Stockholm University's website [www.su.se/regelboken](http://www.su.se/regelboken). Teachers are obliged to report suspicions of cheating and plagiarism to the rector and the disciplinary committee. Plagiarism and cheating always become a disciplinary matter and can lead to suspension. An example of plagiarism is copying a text verbatim or almost verbatim (also applies to single sentences) without indicating the source. This also applies to texts you have written yourself before (self-plagiarism). For example, bringing unauthorized aids, such as a mobile phone, to a test counts as cheating. Having study groups together is edifying and time-saving, but when it comes to exam assignments, you must be careful to work alone (unless otherwise clearly stated) so as not to risk it being considered unauthorized collaboration.

### **Interim**

Students can request that examinations according to this syllabus be carried out up to three semesters after it has ceased to apply. The petition to this effect must be made to the director of studies.

### **Limitations**

Anyone who has passed the course SOB700 Introduction 7.5 credits cannot be admitted to the course.

### **Required reading**

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