

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Advanced Research Methods in Accounting and Operations Management**

**Avancerade forskningsmetoder i redovisning samt verksamhetsutveckling och styrning**

**7.5 Higher Education Credits**

**7.5 ECTS credits**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Course code:</b>      | FE5826  |
| <b>Valid from:</b>       | Spring 2022   |
| <b>Date of approval:</b> | 2017-11-20  |
| <b>Changed:</b>          | 2021-11-19  |
| <b>Department</b>        | Stockholm Business School   |
| <b>Main field:</b>       | Företagsekonomi   |
| <b>Specialisation:</b>   | A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements |

## Decision

This syllabus was approved by the Education Board of Stockholm Business School, Stockholm University, 2017-11-20. Revision was approved by the head of department of Stockholm Business School, Stockholm University 2021-11-19.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Degree of Bachelor comprising at least 180 higher education credits, English 6 or equivalent.

## Course structure

| Examination code | Name                      | Higher Education Credits |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5826             | Advanced Research Methods | 7.5                      |

## Course content

The course aims at introducing the student for business research method, which can be successfully applied during work on the final Master thesis. The goal is that the student, after having passed the course, should be well acquainted with different, quantitative as well as qualitative, methods of conducting empirically based research in the social sciences. The course demonstrates how scientific method can be chosen and performed depending on different research questions. Against this background, the student should be able to design and carry out an investigation based on a chosen problem.

The course deals with the following main issues:

- Formulation of research questions
- Choice of method and research design
- Collection of the empirical data
- Theory-based analysis
- Scientific writing
- Scrutiny of scientific investigations

During the seminar series, the student is given the opportunity to immerse themselves in research methodology, both different epistemological and methodological approaches.

## Learning outcomes

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

#### Knowledge and Understanding

1. Demonstrate ability to understand different scientific methods and approaches.

#### Competence and Skill

2. Demonstrate ability to formulate a scientific problem and the aim and research question for a scientific investigation.
3. Demonstrate ability to choose methodological design including empirical investigation to answer a research question.
4. Demonstrate ability to analyse collected data in order to draw and present empirical and theoretical conclusions.

#### Judgement and Approach

5. Demonstrate ability to evaluate strengths and weaknesses of different methods and empirical data depending on the research question.
6. Demonstrate ability to identify and judge ethical challenges and dilemmas in scientific research.

#### Education

The course consists of a combination of lectures, seminars, group assignments and, to a large extent, self-studies. Assessment for the course will be continuous and is based upon the different course items.

The course workload comprises 200 hours equivalent to 7,5 credits.

The language of instruction is English.

The teaching takes place mainly on campus.

For more detailed information, see the Study guide, published on the learning platform when the course commences.

#### Forms of examination

##### a) Forms of examination

Assessment for the course will be continuous and is carried throughout the different course activities. Each assessment task is weighted in relation to its importance in the overall assessment of the course. The student's results from the different assessment tasks are added up to a total course score that will then translate into the final grade for the course.

##### Assessment tasks

The course contains the following weighted assessment tasks:

1. Individually written exam: assesses learning outcomes 1-6; constitutes 60% of total course points.
2. Attendance and participation in seminars: assess learning outcomes 1–6; constitutes 40% of total course points.

The examination is conducted in English.

If the student has a certificate from Stockholm University with a recommendation for special support, the examiner has the opportunity to give an adapted test or let the student complete the test in an alternative way.

##### b) Grading scale

Grading takes place according to a criterion-referenced seven-point grading scale:

A = Excellent  
B = Very good  
C = Good  
D = Satisfactory  
E = Sufficient  
Fx = Failed, some more work required  
F = Failed, much more work required

#### c) Grading and assessment criteria

##### Grading criteria

The course's grading criteria are designed as overall assessments, combined qualitative descriptions of what the student is expected to do in order to demonstrate how well the course's learning outcomes are achieved. A higher grade-level presupposes the abilities at lower levels.

##### A (Excellent) ☐

The student demonstrates ability to evaluate and relate to the content of the course from a comprehensive, critically reflective perspective, as well as to transfer and apply insights in new, meaningful contexts.

##### B (Very Good) ☐

The student demonstrates ability to, from an overarching and coherent perspective of the field, understand and use concepts to explain how different aspects of the course relate to each other, interconnect and become meaningful.

##### C (Good) ☐

The student demonstrates ability to discuss the content, tasks and complex issues dealt with in the course from several well-developed but mainly independent perspectives.

##### D (Satisfactory) ☐

The student demonstrates satisfactory ability to discuss the content, tasks and complex issues dealt with in the course in a way that, albeit in-depth and elaborate, is decidedly one-dimensional.

##### E (Sufficient) ☐

The student demonstrates sufficient ability to discuss the content, tasks and complex issues dealt with in the course in a way that is decidedly one-dimensional.

##### Fx (Fail) ☐

The student's knowledge, skills and abilities display minor flaws, overall or in significant parts.

##### F (Fail) ☐

The student's knowledge, skills and abilities display major flaws, overall or in significant parts.

##### Assessment criteria

The course's assessment criteria, which serve as support for the assessment of the course's assessment tasks, are announced at the start of the course.

#### d) Final grade

The course comprises 0–100 course points. A passing grade (A–E) in the course requires at least 50 course points and at least 50 points from assessment task 1, and that all learning outcomes are met.

The scale for the final grade is tied to fixed score intervals: A: 90–100; B: 80–89; C: 70–79; D: 60–69; E: 50–59; Fx: 45–49; F: 0–44. The grades correspond to the total course points a student obtains (over a total of 100) for all the weighted assessment tasks combined as part of the continuous assessment for the course. Current rounding rules are applied (0,5–0,9 course points are rounded up to the nearest higher, full course point).

Each assessment task is awarded 0–100 points. The points from an individual assessment task are multiplied by its percentage weight, constituting its course points. The course points for all assessment tasks are summed up to a total score between 0 and 100 course points. The total score is translated into a corresponding course grade A–F.

All assessment tasks are assessed on a 100-point scale.

For more information on how the assessment tasks are assessed, see the Study guide.

The student is responsible for completing the course's assessment tasks, that a sufficient amount of course points is earned and a passing course grade is obtained. If a passing course grade is not obtained during the course's first scheduled occasion, the course's weightiest assessment task can be taken at the course's second scheduled occasion, with retained course points from the course's other assessment tasks. All other assessment tasks are offered once during the course.

If 45–49 course points are achieved, a grade Fx is obtained. If less than 45 course points are achieved, a grade F is obtained.

A student who after the course's two regular exams does not obtain a passing grade lose the course points obtained and is referred to re-register at a later course instance.

Re-registration implies that:

- first-time registered students have priority access to the course's group registration;
- the highest weighted individual assessment task can be re-assessed without attendance at any of the course's other learning activities and without course points from the course's other assessment tasks are accredited.

Exemption from an assessment task is granted if the student presents a written certificate (e.g. a medical certificate), whereupon the student may re-sit the assessment task at a later date decided by the head of course, and while maintaining previously acquired course points.

The application for exemption should be submitted to the director of studies immediately after, or during planned absences well before the date when the assessment task is carried out. A granted exemption expires at the end of the immediately following semester.

#### e) Failed grades

For each course instance, two examination opportunities are normally offered. If during an academic year, a course instance is missing, at least one examination instance is offered.

A student who has received the grade F on an examination twice in a row by one and the same examiner have the right to have another examiner appointed at the next examination, unless there are special reasons to the contrary. The request is made to the director of studies.

A student who has received a passing grade on an examination may not retake the examination or complete a previously not completed assessment task to achieve a higher grade. A passing grade cannot be changed to a failing grade at the student's request.

#### f) Supplementary assignments

The grade Fx is not possible to complete.

#### **Interim**

If the course is discontinued, or its contents are substantially altered, students have the right to be examined according to this syllabus once per semester for three further semesters.

#### **Limitations**

This course may not be included in a degree together with a course, taken in Sweden or elsewhere, of identical or partially similar content.

#### **Misc**

The course is included in:

- Master's Programme in Accounting and Management Control
- Master's Programme in Operations Management and Control.

**Required reading**

Course literature and other teaching materials are specified on the course's webpage no later than two months prior to the course commences.