

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Master Thesis in Sociology

Masteruppsats i sociologi

30.0 Higher Education

Credits

30.0 ECTS credits

Course code: SO9010
Valid from: Autumn 2019
Date of approval: 2007-05-31
Changed: 2013-12-19
Department Department of Sociology

Main field: Sociology
Specialisation: A2E - Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Decision

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Sociology at Stockholm University 2013-12-19.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor's degree or corresponding and a second level course in sociological theory and a second level course in sociological method.

Course structure

| Examination code | Name | Higher Education Credits |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1M11 | Master Thesis in Sociology | 30 |

Course content

In the course, the student will independently carry out a research that will be presented in the form of a thesis. The work should be clearly rooted in relevant sociological theory and use established analytical methods.

Learning outcomes

A master thesis are quality-wise on a level between magister thesis and licentiate thesis.

Knowledge and understanding

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- Understand and apply established scientific rules to analyze sociologically relevant issues.

Skills and competencies

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- apply sociologically relevant concepts, theories and methods for analyzing a scientific question,
- critically reflect on the advantages and shortcomings of concepts, theory and empirics,
- be able to present a scientifically credible argumentation.

Valuations and Approach

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- critically reflect on his own research work and published research.

Education

Teaching is given in the form of an introductory seminar, supervision and a final seminar. Students who have started the course are entitled to a total of 40 hours of supervision, of which about one third constitute as contact time. In special circumstances, the student is entitled to change the supervisor. The request for this, with motivation, shall be made to the responsible for the thesis course. In the case of a change, a countdown is made of how many hours that has been used so far.

Forms of examination

The master thesis is defended at a public seminar. Appointed opponent shall at least be admitted to postgraduate education. Appointed examiner shall at least be docent.

The grading follows a goal-related scale with seven levels:

A = Excellent

B = Very Good

C = Good

D = Satisfactory

E = Sufficient

Fx = Unisufficient

F = Fail

In grading the thesis, the following dimensions are considered:

1. The relevance for and contribution to the field of research in the area
2. The delimitation of the thesis' purpose; the possibility to accomplish the intended work
3. Critical perspective towards methods, previous research, data, own role in the research and considering alternative interpretations.
4. Structure; the individual sections of the thesis each support the overall argument. The thesis forms a coherent unit in which the different parts connect to each other.
5. The information quality of the text - correct and legible language, high quota of information, adhering to the assigned form
6. Account of relevant Swedish and international research - perspective, synthesising, possible theoretical contribution
7. Methods - relevance of choice of methods, motivation and execution
8. Discussion - reasonable generalizing arguments, connection to relevant previous research
9. Verbal defense of the thesis and opposition of another thesis at the final seminar.

Each dimension is assessed by the appointed examiner according to the scale 'Good', 'Pass' (some deficiencies), 'Fail'.

To earn the grade A, all dimensions shall be assessed as 'Good'.

To earn the grade B, all dimensions but two shall be assessed as 'Good' and the rest as 'Pass'.

To earn the grade C, all dimensions but four shall be assessed as 'Good' and the rest as 'Pass'.

To earn the grade D, six dimensions shall be assessed as 'Pass'.

To earn the grade E, all dimensions shall be assessed as 'Pass'.

To fail one dimension results in receiving the grade Fx.

To fail in more than one dimension results in receiving the grade F.

A student with the grade Fx or F is entitled to re-do the examination (in this case, have a revised version of the thesis re-examined) as long as the course is given in order to obtain the grade E or higher. A student who has obtained the grade E or higher is not entitled to re-do the exam in order to reach a higher grade. A student who has been graded Fx or F twice by one examiner can request to have another examiner at the next re-exam. Such request shall be addressed to the Director of Studies. Students can request examination according to this syllabus during three semesters after it has ceased to be valid. This comprises all compulsory parts of the course. Such request shall be addressed to the Director of Studies.

Misc

A student who, during the course does not get ready on time with the thesis, may apply to get supervision at another semester. The condition for granting this is that the supervisor and the director of studies approves it.

Required reading

Course literature is determined in consultation with the supervisor.