

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Interactive Methods
Interaktiva metoder

7.5 Higher Education
Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	SV7015
Valid from:	Autumn 2013
Date of approval:	2007-10-23
Changed:	2013-06-04
Department	Department of Political Science
Main field:	Political Science
Specialisation:	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

The syllabus has been approved by the Board of the Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, 2007-10-13. Date of latest revision 2013-06-04

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

A Bachelor of Arts degree of 180 credits, or the equivalent, with a major in Political Science, or the equivalent.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
7015	Interactive Methods	7.5

Course content

The course aims at providing comprehensive knowledge of interactive methods. The course is intended both for students that plan to make use of these types of methods in a thesis within the framework of the Master's Programme and for students that want to deepen their knowledge in order to be better able to assess political science research based on these types of methods. A broad range of interactive methods are taken up, including interviewing, observation, textual analysis and field work. Special emphasis is placed on "reflexive science" and the situatedness of knowledge.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Knowledge and Understanding

- *provide accounts of various perspectives and concepts in relation to interactive methods;
- *explain and exemplify the use of different interactive methods, such as interviewing, observation, textual analysis and field work.

2. Skills and Abilities

- *apply different perspectives and concepts in assessing the use of different interactive methods in relation to concrete research problems;
- *compare and contrast the use of different interactive methods in relation to concrete research problems.

3. Evaluation and Approach

*critically examine and evaluate arguments for and against different perspectives in relation to interactive methods in a manner that is well supported and justified;

* critically examine and evaluate arguments for and against the use of different interactive methods in relation to concrete research problems in a manner that is well supported and justified.

Education

Teaching consists of compulsory seminars. Information about how absence can be supplemented will be provided at the beginning of the course.

Forms of examination

Examination will be in the form of seminar presentations and one or more written assignments or course papers.

A seven steps grading scale is used for grading. A, B, C, D and E are degrees of a passed grade. F and Fx are degrees of a failed grade. It is possible for a student to supplement an examination if the obtained grade is Fx and information about this possibility is included in the provided course information. Upon being informed of the need for supplement by the examiner, the supplementary task must be submitted within five working days. If the examination supplement is accepted and has the character of supplementing a lack of understanding, minor misunderstanding, minor errors or too limited discussions for some part, the grade E will be applied. If the supplementary task is accepted and has the character of simple formality corrections, the grades A-E will be applied.

At the beginning of the course, grading criteria will be provided. Students who have failed the course twice have the right to request another examiner. This request should be addressed to the department unit that has appointed the examiner. A student that has passed an exam may not take part in a re-examination in order to obtain a higher grade.

Interim

When the course is no longer offered or when its content has been significantly modified, the student has the right to be examined according to this syllabus once each semester during a period of three semesters.

Misc

Language of instruction: English

Required reading

a) Books

Kvale, Steinar & Brinkmann, Svend (2008), *InterViews. Learning the Craft of Qualitative Research Interviewing*, Second Edition, Sage Publications. (376 pages)

Schatz, Edward (ed.) (2009), *Political Ethnography. What Immersion Contributes to the Study of Power*, University of Chicago Press. (376 pages)

Smith, Dorothy E. (ed.) (2006), *Institutional Ethnography as Practice*, Rowman & Littlefield. (276 pages)

b) E-journal articles

Aberbach, Joel D. & Rockman, Bert A. (2002), "Conducting and Coding Elite Interviews", *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 35, No. 4, pp. 673–676. (4 pages)

Apter, David E. (2006), "Duchamp's Urinal: Who Says What's Rational When Things Get Tough?", in Goodin, Robert E. & Tilly, Charles, *The Oxford Handbook of Contextual Political Analysis*, pp. 767-796. (30 pages)

Berry, Jeffrey M. (2002), "Validity and Reliability Issues in Elite Interviewing", *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 35, No. 4, pp. 679–682. (4 pages)

Goldstein, Kenneth (2002), "Getting in the Door: Sampling and Completing Elite Interviews" *PS: Political Science & Politics*, Vol. 35, No. 4, pp. 669–672. (4 pages)

Leech, Beth (2002), "Asking Questions: Techniques for Semistructured Interviews", *PS: Political Science & Politics*, Vol. 35, No. 4, pp. 665–668. (4 pages)

Peabody, Robert L. & Hammond, Susan Webb & Torcom, Jean & Brown, Lynne P. & Thompson, Carolyn & Kolodny, Robin (1990), "Interviewing Political Elites", *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 23, No. 3, pp. 451–455. (4 pages)

Rathbun, Brian C. (2008), "Interviewing and Qualitative Field Methods: Pragmatism and Practicalities", in Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M. & Brady, Henry E. & Collier, *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, pp. 685-701. (17 pages)

Tansey, Oisín (2007), "Process Tracing and Elite Interviewing: A Case for Non-probability Sampling", *PS: Political Science & Politics*, Vol. 40, No. 4, pp. 765–772. (8 pages)

c) Other literature

Additional material in a compendium or online may be included (max 100 pages).

Of the above literature, the following titles should be ordered for availability at

Akademibokhandeln:

George, Alexander L. & Bennett, Andrew (2005), *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*, MIT Press.

Mahoney, James & Rueschemeyer, Dietrich (red.) (2003), *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*, Cambridge University Press.