



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

SIMM16, Social Sciences: Introduction to Quantitative Methods, 7.5 credits

Samhällsvetenskap: Introduktion till kvantitativ metod, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2015-11-19 to be valid from 2016-01-27, spring semester 2016.

General Information

The course is offered as a single subject course in the Social Sciences and is an optional course within the Master of Science in Social Sciences programmes.

Language of instruction: English

<i>Main field of studies</i>	<i>Depth of study relative to the degree requirements</i>
Education	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Human Geography	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Social Work	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Social Anthropology	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Sociology of Law	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Political Science	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Gender Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Development Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Sociology	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

Upon completion of the course, the student shall demonstrate an understanding of basic concepts and fundamental principles associated with quantitative methods.

Competence and skills

On completion of the course the students shall, independently and with proficiency, show ability to:

- Perform basic statistical analysis
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of SPSS
- Select the appropriate method, interpret the outcome and report the results
- Formulate and in an appropriate way examine a hypothesis about a causal relationship

Judgement and approach

On completion of the course the students should be able to:

- Assimilate and reflect on texts (reports or scientific papers) where the argument is based on basic statistical analysis in a knowledgeable, independent and theoretically informed way
- Critically and independently reflect on methodological aspects of such analysis

Course content

The aim of this course is for students with little prior knowledge of quantitative methods to develop an understanding of the basic concepts and fundamental principles guiding the use of quantitative methods, acquire basic practical skills with regard to the performance of statistical analysis and develop the ability to critically assess quantitative research. The participants formulate a research question that includes a hypothesized causal relationship and that can be addressed using an available dataset. During the course different techniques for processing and analyzing data will be introduced and the participants will, mainly under teacher supervision, work on answering their own research question using the tools presented to them in the lectures. Participants will also learn to assimilate and evaluate existing quantitative social science research as it is presented in scientific journals and/or reports.

Course design

Teaching includes lectures, teacher assisted exercises in practical statistical analysis (computer lab work) and seminars. The course is teaching intensive and requires a high degree of participation.

Assessment

The learning outcomes will be examined through two papers, the first presenting results of applied analysis, and the second providing a critical assessment of quantitative research studies.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Within a year of the conclusion of the course, two further re-examination opportunities on the same course content are to be offered. After this, further reexamination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the then current course syllabus.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail (U).

The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

The grading is based 75% on the first paper (applied analysis) and 25% on the second paper (assessment of quantitative research.)

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the student must have 150 credits including a graded thesis for the degree of Bachelor, or a completed major, in the Social Sciences, or another equivalent subject.

A good command of English language both spoken and written, equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) proficiency in the Swedish secondary system, is required. Equivalence assessments will be made according to national guidelines.