

2023-09-05

Course Description

In-depth Studies in Research Methodology (7.5 ECTS)

PEA 467

Autumn term 2023

Course Leader: **Associate Professor Malgosia Malec Rawinski**

Department of Education

Stockholm University
Department of Education
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General Introduction

The course is part of the Master Programme in Education and is obligatory for students who study with International and Comparative specialization. Students must have completed *Introduction to Educational Research Methods* (15 ECTS).

Contact Information

Course Leader:

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University Account and Athena

For information on how to activate your university student account, please visit:

<https://www.su.se/english/education/a-smooth-start/get-access-to-it-services-your-university-account-and-order-a-university-card>

Athena is a web-based learning and collaboration platform for courses at Stockholm University. You must have activated your student account and be registered for the course to have access to the Athena course page. The Athena page for this course will be made available to students registered for the course, no later than one week before the course begins. If you have difficulty accessing the Athena page for this course, please check first that you are registered for the course. Then contact the course administrator. The link to Athena is <https://athena.su.se/>

Course Structure and Content

The course provides advanced knowledge of educational research methods with a special focus on questions of how to collect data and analyse them. Different methods of analysis are being introduced and students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in one of them. Questions regarding research design, data collection, and quality criteria are discussed



in relation to analytical methods, both concerning qualitative and quantitative research traditions. Particular attention is paid to the opportunities and challenges of studies in International and Comparative Education.

Learning Objectives

To pass the course the student should be able to:

- argue for the choice of an appropriate method of analysis based on the planned research and the study's purpose,
- collect a small sample of data,
- analyze data according to a specific research tradition,
- describe, discuss and critically compare methodological approaches and considerations,
- reflect on quality criteria for the chosen study.

Activities

The course contains compulsory instruction which combines lectures, workshops, discussions and group work to achieve the learning outcomes.

In line with the focus of the course on data analysis, lectures, seminars and workshops will be offered that prepare the students for analysing data according to different research traditions.

The ICT collaboration and learning platform Athena is used for communication, messages, information about the course and dissemination of course material. All teaching is in accordance with the official policy of Stockholm university. More information will be published on the course page on Athena.

Attendance

In order for a student to be examined, they must have attended at least 80% of all compulsory course sessions, such as lectures and seminars. Student absences of more than 20% of the course sessions must be compensated via additional course assignments. If a student has attended less than 60% of the course sessions they have to re-take the course. Course paper instructions will be provided separately.

In practice it looks like, the student must have attended:

- 6 of 8 obligatory lectures/seminars and
- 3 of 6 workshops.

If a student has attended only 4 obligatory lectures/seminars, a compensation task must be submitted.

If students have attended fewer than 4 obligatory lectures/seminars and/or fewer than 3 workshops they have to re-take the course.



Examination and Grading

The course is examined through an individual written assignment. Course participant shall present a course paper that shows their abilities and capacities that corresponds to the expected student results named under “Learning outcomes”.

The Course Assignment

The examination in the course “In-depth Studies in Research Methodology” builds on the knowledge students have gained from the course contents. The Students shall write a paper which is of particular interest and relevance to them, in relation to the field of International and Comparative Education and the framework provided in the course. Students shall apply relevant knowledge from the readings as well as the understandings they gained through lectures, seminars and workshops for solving the examination task, which will focus on data analysis.

The aim of the paper is to investigate questions about how social science and pedagogical research can be conducted in the field of International and comparative education and demonstrate advanced knowledge of educational research methods with a special focus on questions of how to collect data and analyse it.

The course paper can be split into three separate written parts, which all need to be submitted before the final deadline. More specific course paper instructions will be published on Athena according to given dates.

Assessment is based on:

- quality of the submitted course paper and
- active participation in the course, workshops and seminars.

Examination Dates

Course paper instructions will be provided during the first lecture. Detailed instructions of the course paper assignment will also be provided on Athena.

Course paper deadline

The final course paper submission date is **November 28th, 2024 - before 11.59 pm**. The paper is submitted in the ‘Assignment’ folder on Athena. Please save the document as your Surname, First Name.



Second Examination

Students who do not submit a course paper on November 28th, 2022, who fail to submit their course paper by the due date, or receive an unsatisfactory mark in the course examination can submit an assignment during the second examination. The second examination will contain a new topic and new task.

Second Examination Dates

Assignment task will be posted on Athena on January 3rd, 2024.

The submission date is **January 10th, 2024, 4 pm**. The paper is submitted in the 'Assignment' folder on Athena under "Second Examination". Please save the document as your Surname, First Name.

Third Examination

Students who do not submit a course paper on January 10th, 2024, who fail to submit their course paper by the due date, or receive an unsatisfactory mark in the course examination can submit an assignment during the third examination. The third examination will contain a new topic and new task.

Third Examination Dates

Assignment task will be posted on Athena in August (see TimeEdit).

The submission date is early **September, 2024**.

Please contact the course administration if you want to participate in the third examination.

The paper is submitted in the 'Assignment' folder on Athena under "Third Examination". Please save the document as your Surname, First Name.

Ethical issue

Academic honesty and integrity must be respected. A reference list and proper citation of literature, including page numbers, and of other sources, is a requirement for all assignments. The course examination is based on the quality of the course paper, including the references and citations. We use Urkund as text comparison software.



Plagiarism

It is permissible to cite other sources, but both direct quotes and indirect references to a text must always be provided with correct and complete referencing to the original source. Copying or writing a shorter or longer paragraph and stating yourself as the author of the text is prohibited. This is considered plagiarism. You may also not copy your own texts that have been used in other examinations, as this is considered self-plagiarism.

An example of plagiarism is copying text verbatim or almost verbatim (this includes parts of a text and/or individual sentences) and not indicating where the text originates from. Plagiarism is also when you use another person's text and make it appear that it is your own. For example, text found in the course literature and/or texts that you have found online, or another student's course paper. Plagiarism is regarded as a crime, not only against the established research ethics code, but also against upholding general regard towards one's own and others' texts. Plagiarism is unauthorized cheating and is always subject to disciplinary reporting, which can lead to suspension. At Stockholm University, texts are checked against a database.

Cheating

Cheating

As a student at Stockholm University, you are responsible for your own education. Part of your responsibility includes knowing the rules that exist for study, examination and being on the university premises, and utilizing resources. According to the rules that apply to the university, disciplinary measures may be taken against students for:

- using unauthorized means, or otherwise attempt to, mislead an exam or when student performance is assessed otherwise;
- interfering with, or obstructing, teaching, tests or other activities within the framework of education.

Disciplinary matters are dealt with by the Stockholm University Disciplinary Board. The penalty may be a warning or suspension for a period of 1-6 months. Information on Stockholm University rules for examination and disciplinary cases can be found on Stockholm University's website www.su.se/regulations. Teachers are required to report a suspicion of cheating to the director of studies.

Grading System and Criteria

<i>Grading Scale</i>	
A.	The course paper demonstrates that all the learning outcomes of the course have been fulfilled in an excellent way. The student shows an excellent ability to describe, analyse and discuss the content of the course in an independent and reflective way. The text contains several references to the course literature and to other relevant texts that are well chosen to fit the context. The text is well structured, without any formal mistakes and with a language that signifies clarity and an effort to elaborate the text. The text should not be shorter or longer than the range prescribed in the course assignment. A course paper that is shorter or longer than the prescribed range will be affected in the grading.
B.	The course paper demonstrates that all the learning outcomes of the course have been fulfilled in a very good way. The student shows a very good ability to describe, analyse and discuss the content of the course in an independent and reflective way. The text contains several references to the course literature and to other relevant texts that are well chosen to fit the context. The text is well structured, without formal mistakes and with a language use that signifies clarity and an effort to elaborate the text. A course paper that is shorter or longer than the prescribed range will be affected in the grading.
C.	The course paper demonstrates that all the learning outcomes of the course have been fulfilled in a good way. The student shows good ability to describe, analyse and discuss the content of the course without major shortcomings. The text refers in a relevant way to the course literature and to other appropriate texts. The text is well structured, without any major formal mistakes and with a good language use. A course paper that is shorter or longer than the prescribed range will be affected in the grading.
D.	The course paper demonstrates that all the learning outcomes of the course have been fulfilled in a satisfactory way. The student shows that he/she has achieved knowledge and understanding of the course content and ability to discuss this in an independent way. The text refers to the course literature. The text is structured in a satisfactory way, without any major formal mistakes and in an acceptable language. A course paper that is shorter or longer than the prescribed range will be affected in the grading.
E.	The course paper demonstrates that the learning outcomes of the course have been fulfilled in a sufficient way. The student shows that he/she has achieved an acceptable knowledge and understanding of the course content, but with a limited ability to discuss this in an independent way. The text connects to the course literature. The text is structured in an acceptable way, without any serious formal mistakes and in an acceptable language. A course paper that is shorter or longer than the prescribed range will be affected in the grading.



Fx.	The course paper demonstrates that the required learning outcomes have not been fulfilled. Possible shortcomings could be: that the course literature is not covered in a sufficient way, analyses and discussions in the text are not convincing, the text is too close to the course literature, there is no link between own observations and the course literature / the content of the course, the text is difficult to understand due to inadequate language use, the disposition of the text makes it difficult to follow the text, references are incorrect or missing and/or the paper is much shorter or much longer than the prescribed length. A revision of the paper is needed.
F.	The course paper demonstrates that the required learning outcomes have not been fulfilled. Possible shortcomings could be those mentioned under F(x), but are so serious that they cannot be amended in a revision of the text. The course participant has to do a new course assignment that will be given by the course leader.

Course Evaluation

The course is evaluated through an online survey which will be made available at the end of the course.

Course Literature

The current course literature is made available on the course page no later than two months before the course begins.

Support during your studies

At Stockholm University, it is possible to receive extra support in addition to regular teaching.

Academic Writing Service

The Academic Writing Service provides English-language support for writing and study skills. They give talks and seminars and offer individual guidance. Their services are available free of charge to all students at Stockholm University. For more information visit:

<https://www.su.se/english/education/student-support/academic-writing-service>



Studying with a disability

If you have a documented disability, e.g. dyslexia, you have the opportunity to receive special pedagogical support. Examples of support initiatives may be note-taking, audio books, extended exam time or sign language interpretation. You must apply for special pedagogical support from Student Support Office at Stockholm University

<https://www.su.se/english/education/student-support/studying-with-a-disability>

Once the application has been received, a coordinator will contact you to arrange a personal meeting. After speaking to the coordinator, you will receive a certificate describing types of support to be offered to you.

It is the responsibility of the student to contact the student counselors at the Department of Education before a course begins in order to arrange for support. Their email address is studievagledare@edu.su.se. The student counselors will then contact the course leaders with regards to the type of support the student will need.