

Date 2025-01-21

Course Description

Introduction to Educational Research Methods (15 ECTS)

Course code: PEA464

Spring 2025

Course Leader: Professor Shu-Nu Chang Rundgren

Department of Education

Stockholm University
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General Introduction

The course presents a number of themes and topics, such as research strategies and designs, the nature of quantitative/qualitative research, data collection and quantitative/qualitative analyses. More specifically, (1) the up-to-date research strategies – research theories, designs and literature for the social sciences, and for education in particular; (2) the nature of quantitative research – types, components, and stages; (3) the nature of qualitative research – types, components, and stages; and (4) complementary advantage and use of both quantitative and qualitative approaches in educational research.

Contact Information

Course leader

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Teachers (according to the alphabetical order of the last name):

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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 combines lectures, seminars, workshops, and group-works to achieve the learning outcomes. Lectures are structured around the main textbooks and grouped into sub-areas which are complimented by further readings and lecture materials. After each sub-area, a seminar and a group-work sessions will be organized with the purpose to offer opportunities for the students to deepen their understanding by demonstrating critical thinking skill on the issues in question. Topics and/or questions for each seminar and group-work session as well as information regarding the composition of the groups will be shared in advance by the related teachers via Athena. Two workshops of data collection for quantitative and qualitative methods will be organized to support students' learning in the course. All of the lectures, seminars and group-works are compulsory. Only the two workshops are optional, but students are encouraged to participate.

The course participant shall:

- actively participate in the course, discussions and seminars,
- present and defend of a course paper,
- conduct a critical examination of a course paper written by another student and actively participate in the course paper peer-review sessions.

The learning platform Athena is used for communication, messages, information about the course and dissemination of course material.

Attendance

In order for a student to be examined, they must have attended at least 80% of all compulsory course sessions, such as lectures, group work, group work presentations, 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. **When absent, students have to contact the Course Leader, Shu-Nu Chang Rundgren (shu-nu.chang-rundgren@edu.su.se).** Students who are absent 20% - 40% of the course sessions will receive additional course assignments to compensate for the absence. Students will not receive the grade until all the required assignments are handed in and approved.



Learning Objectives

The course participant shall be acquainted with the most important educational *cum* social science research designs and methodologies that are used in the field of international and comparative education. To pass the course the student should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge about educational research from an international and comparative perspective,
- demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles of both qualitative, quantitative and mixed research methodologies,
- demonstrate knowledge of how quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods research is conducted from the social sciences perspective, in general, and in particular, from an educational perspective,
- demonstrate ability and skills related to research ethics and data collection, analysis and interpretation.

Examination and Grading

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

Course examination and date

The course paper is to be submitted in the folder on the Athena course page **before June 09 (Monday) 23:59**. Please save the file as your Surname, First Name. For example: **Smith_John_Course Assignment**.

Second Examination and dates

Students, who have not submitted a course paper to the 1st examination or have received an unsatisfactory mark in the course examination, can submit an assignment to the second examination. Assignment task will be posted on Athena on **Aug. 11 (Monday)**. The submission date is **August 31 (Sunday) before 23:59**. The paper is submitted in the folder on Athena course site under 'Plans' with the name of "Second Examination". Please save the document as your Surname, First Name. For example: **Smith_John_2nd examination**.

Third Examination and dates

Students, who have not submitted a course paper to the 1st or 2nd examination or have received an unsatisfactory mark in the course examination, can submit an assignment to the third examination. Assignment task will be posted on Athena on **September 15 (Monday)**. The submission date is **October 05 (Sunday) before 23:59**. The paper is submitted in the folder on Athena course site under 'Plans' with the name of "Third Examination". Please save the document as your Surname, First Name. For example: **Smith_John_3rd examination**.



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

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 obstruction 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 suspected suspicion of cheating to the director of studies.

Grading Criteria

Grading Scale	
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.