



AG2118 Research Methodology and Scientific Writing for Architects and Planners 3.0 credits

Research Methodology and Scientific Writing for Architects and Planners

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, course syllabus.

Establishment

Course syllabus for AG2118 valid from Autumn 2007

Grading scale

A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Education cycle

Second cycle

Main field of study

The Built Environment

Specific prerequisites

At least 60 credits (one year) in the Masterprogram Spatial Planning or Masterprogram Urban Planning and Design.

Students should read the course AK2032 Theory of science and research methodology simultaneously.

Language of instruction

The language of instruction is specified in the course offering information in the course catalogue.

Intended learning outcomes

The aim of this course is to provide the necessary tools for students to conduct research within urban planning and design and to present their findings. The course is a prologue to the cycle of the research processes including conceptualization, information searching, evaluation, analysis, report-writing and presentation techniques. It addresses issues underpinnings of research design, among them the issues of validity, reliability and ethics.

Course contents

The course is focused on critical analysis, investigation and production of scientific texts. It will discuss current research methodologies, their relevance and applicability in urban planning and design studies. The course will link up with the courses Urban Theory and Concepts and Tools in Urban Design Analysis and create an opportunity to reflect upon the exercises in the course Applied Analysis in Urban Planning and Design. Different types of writing will be practiced, such as scholarly texts, critical writings and the texts addressing general public. The course will be carried out in a mixed form of lectures, seminars and workshops. Designing a research project, applying an appropriate research method and demonstrating reasonable and convincing results belong to the designerly way of thinking. The course is aimed to situate urban planning and design studies within a larger intellectual framework through grasping the indissoluble connection between ideas and artefacts. The course will therefore be commenced with a review on the development of design methodology as the point of departure.

The course will help students to anticipate, identify, and resolve the challenges involved in designing and conducting research. Students who take this course will learn to carry on minor research projects by gaining greater skills both in the formulation of coherently structured arguments as well as the use of basic procedure of scientific writings. These goals will be achieved by introducing students to various sources of information and to acquaint them with different methodological instruments for identifying underlying research motivations and assumptions. The course will support students to design and produce their own scholarly texts, to think independently and conduct research more critically and systematically. The course is aimed to prepare students for future PhD studies.

Course literature

Required,

Groat, Linda; Wang, David. (2002). Architectural Research Methods. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

Optional,

Creswell, John W. (2002). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* (2nd Ed.). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Denscombe, M. (2003). *The Good Research Guide: For Small-Scale Research Projects*. London: Oxford University Press.

George, A.; Bennett, A. (2005). *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge MA: MIT Press.

Yin R. K. (2003). *Case Study Research: Design and Methods* (3rd Ed.). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications

Examination

- ÖVN1 - Exercise, 2.0 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F
- NÄR1 - Attendance, 1.0 credits, grading scale: P, F

Based on recommendation from KTH's coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

If the course is discontinued, students may request to be examined during the following two academic years.

Other requirements for final grade

In order to complete the course (total 3 credits) students are required to:

- Attend at least 80% of the course, study the required readings and actively participate in discussion (NÄR1;1 credit).
- Complete a well designed and well-written assignment in form of an individual research proposal and present it to other students (PRO1;2credits).

Ethical approach

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.