



# AI2141 Theory of Science and Business Research Methods 7.5 credits

Theory of Science and Business Research Methods

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

## Establishment

Course syllabus for AI2141 valid from Autumn 2010

## Grading scale

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

## Education cycle

Second cycle

## Main field of study

## Specific prerequisites

Advanced Issues in Real Estate and Financial Services (AI2140).

## Language of instruction

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

## Intended learning outcomes

The overarching purpose with the course is to prepare the students for the writing of their master's thesis, which they shall write the following semester. Thus, the aim of the course is to provide an overview of theories and methods in research, with emphasis on methods in the field of social sciences. The course will provide the students with the necessary practical skills to manage their master thesis work.

More specifically, after the course the students will be able to:

- Formulate a thesis proposal.
- Write a literature review.
- Defend their thesis proposals.
- Discuss someone else's thesis proposal.
- Design a small-scale social science research project.
- Develop an outline for a dissertation.
- Analyze what method is the most suitable for certain research projects.

## Course contents

The course consists of two series of seminar and a few lectures. The practical seminars are obligatory. Assignments shall be handed in at the latest 15.00 the day before the seminar. The lectures will focus on traditions in scientific thinking, concepts and methods. Literature classes/seminars will treat different chapters from the book. Guest lecturers will be invited to the end of the literature classes, and treat different themes related to the course.

## Disposition

The practical seminars will be on:

- Opposition of another master's thesis.
- Articles of choice and the methods used in them.
- Interview techniques and do's and don't.
- Questionnaires; formulating, distributing and collecting.

## Course literature

Ghauri, Pervez & Grønhaug, Kjell (2010) Research Methods in Business Studies, Pearson Education: London, UK (fourth edition).

## Examination

- INL1 - Assignment, 3.0 credits, grading scale: P, F
- TEN1 - Examination, 4.5 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, 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.

- Thesis proposal (TEN1; 4,5 cr), A-F.
- Seminar assignments (INL1; 3 cr), pass/Fail.

## Other requirements for final grade

Approved thesis proposals and seminar assignments.

## 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.