



FME3515 Qualitative Research Methods 7.5 credits

Kvalitativa metoder

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

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

Establishment

Course syllabus for FME3515 valid from Autumn 2011

Grading scale

Education cycle

Third cycle

Specific prerequisites

Language of instruction

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

Intended learning outcomes

The course aims at providing the students with an overview of dominating schools of qualitative research methodology within the subject are Industrial Management. Methodological schools that will be discussed during the course include: action research, participant

observation, feminist methodology, textual analysis, ethnography, critical incidents and various forms of qualitative interview techniques. In the course, choices of methodology and analysis will be explicitly related to epistemological axiological assumptions. After finishing the course, the student shall be able to:

- handle the linkage between epistemology, axiology, research problem, research aim, empirical fieldwork and analysis
- describe different methodological schools within qualitative research
- handle methodological issues in a reflexive manner, in written and oral presentations.

Course contents

The course consists of a mandatory module on schools of thought in qualitative methodology and an elective module where the student may inquire further into a specific methodology. The elective module is an opportunity for the student to link the course to the individual thesis project. The various methodological schools will be described and discussed by researchers who have previous experience in employing them in fieldwork. The course will be organized as a series of discussion seminars and group work, as well as individual tasks - all aimed at developing the ability to synthesise knowledge and concepts from several different sources.

Course literature

Mandatory:

- Alvesson/Sköldberg - Reflexive methodology
- Nylén - Att presentera kvalitativa data
- Research articles - presented at course introduction

Elective: Dependent on specialization chosen

Examination

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.

Active participation in lectures and seminars. Term paper in the format of a methodology chapter linking epistemological and axiological assumptions with research problem aim, empirical fieldwork and data analysis.

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.