



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

A. Syllabus for SIMV23-33 Master's (Two Years) thesis in Development Studies, 30 credits, second cycle (A2E)

The course was adopted by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Lund University, on November 17, 2011, and the syllabus was approved by the Committee for International Programmes on December 12, 2011.

This syllabus is valid from the spring semester 2012.

B Course details

The course is offered as a compulsory course within the Master of Science Programme (120 credits) in Development Studies. Medium of instruction is English and the thesis is written in English.

In the course the students write a thesis in Development Studies that also fulfils the learning outcomes for a thesis in one of the following disciplines:

- Gender Studies (SIMV23)
- Development Studies (SIMV24)
- Human Geography (SIMV25)
- Education (SIMV26)
- Media and Communication (SIMV27)
- Psychology (SIMV28)
- Political Science (SIMV29)
- Social Work (SIMV30)
- Social Anthropology (SIMV31)
- Sociology (SIMV32)
- Sociology of Law (SIMV33)

C Learning outcomes

After completion of the course, the students shall

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of development studies, including both broad knowledge in the field of development studies and substantially deeper knowledge of certain parts of the field, together with deeper insight in current research and development; and
- demonstrate deeper methodological knowledge.

Skills and abilities

- be able to apply their knowledge and understanding, and problem-solving abilities to contexts related to the field of Development Studies;

- demonstrate an ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, even when limited information in the area of Development Studies is available;
- demonstrate an ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate research questions and to plan and, using appropriate methods, carry out advanced tasks within specified time limits and to evaluate this work;
- demonstrate an ability to clearly present and discuss their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments behind them, in dialogue with different groups, orally and in writing, in national and international contexts;
- demonstrate the skill required to participate in research and development work or to work independently in other advanced contexts;
- demonstrate an ability to correctly cite and refer to the literature and other relevant materials; and
- communicate scientific issues and follow the development of knowledge within their field of study

Making judgments

- demonstrate an ability to make assessments in the field of Development Studies, taking into account relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects, and demonstrate an awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work;
- demonstrate insight into the potential and limitations of knowledge in the social sciences, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used; and
- demonstrate an ability to identify their need for further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge.

D Course content

In this course the students independently design and execute a scientific inquiry. The students should identify a relevant research problem in the field of Development studies from a social sciences perspective, select appropriate methods, treat a comprehensive theoretical and empirical material, and report the findings in the form of a written text. The work process is guided by a supervisor appointed by the responsible department. Whereas the supervisor provides constructive feedback on the basic structure of the inquiry, the thesis represents an independent research effort, thus the responsibility for the final product rests upon the authors themselves.

E Teaching and Assessment

The teaching takes the form of individual guidance, self-directed studies and seminars. To complete the course the student must submit a thesis, written in English, as well as defend the thesis in a seminar arranged at the end of the course. The student must also participate as a discussant on a thesis written by a fellow student. All students are expected to actively participate in the seminars and the tutorial sessions.

The thesis shall be submitted electronically according with the programme instructions, and will be published in an open access database belonging to Lund University.

F Grades

The grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail.

The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

*) Course components such as X/X and Y/ (e. g. conversation practice, study visits, group exercises) are exempted from the grading scale above. The grades awarded for such components are Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

G Specific Admission Requirements

Students are required to have passed the following courses:

- a. A Bachelor's degree in social science or equivalent
- b. Profile courses for the program, 30 credits
- c. 30 credits of courses in *Theory of Science* (at least 7.5 credits) and *Research Methods* (at least 15 credits)

H Other information

In connection with the start of the course the students will be provided with information of the specific learning outcomes for the respective discipline of their major.

This course replaces SIMT23-33 Master's (Two Years) thesis in Development Studies, 30 credits, second cycle (A2E).