



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.

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

Establishment

Course syllabus for AI2141 valid from Autumn 2009

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

Language of instruction

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

Intended learning outcomes

The aim of the course is to provide an overview of theories and methods in research, with emphasize on methods in the field of social sciences.

The course provides the students with the necessary practical skills to manage their master thesis work.

After this course the students will be able to demonstrate their understanding of the research process by

- Writing literature reviews
- Formulating research proposals
- Being able to defend their proposals
- Being able to design a small-scale social science research project
- Develop an outline for a dissertation

Course contents

Lectures on:

- Traditions in scientific thinking and modes of reasoning
- Concepts in science (hypothesis, model, theory, correlation, definition etc)
- Research methodologies in the field of social sciences
- Techniques to collect and analyse data

Assignments will address the topics:

- Hypothesis testing
- Definitions
- Writing a master thesis
- Outline for individual master thesis

Disposition

The course consists of a series of lectures and seminars. Students are expected to use the seminars to further develop the topics they scoped out in the Advanced Issues course to develop a full research proposal.

Course literature

Fischer, Colin (2007) *Researching and Writing a Dissertation: A guidebook for business students*, Pearson Education: London, UK. (second 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.

- Written thesis proposal (TEN1; 4,5cr), A-F
- Written seminar paper (INL1; 3cr), P/F

Other requirements for final grade

Approved thesis proposal and thesis plan

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.