



Faculty of Social Sciences

*Qualitative Research Methodologies  
in Psychology, 7,5 credits  
Kvalitativa forskningsmetodologier i psykologi,  
7,5 högskolepoäng*

**Third Cycle/Forskarutbildningsnivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Psychology on 2020-04-14.

The syllabus is valid from Autumn 2020.

### **General Information**

The course is offered as a third-cycle optional methodological course.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies:* Psychology

### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of qualitative research designs in psychology by critically discussing and evaluating different research questions, data generating activities and analyses of qualitative data
- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of ontological and epistemological assumptions underpinning different methodologies by critically discussing different qualitative methodologies and their main philosophical and practical differences

#### **Competence and skills**

- Demonstrate an ability to formulate qualitative research questions, plan qualitative data generating activities and perform qualitative analyses of data that are relevant for psychology
- Demonstrate an in-depth ability to formulate and analyse a suitable problem or project relevant to qualitative research in psychology

### **Judgement and approach**

- Demonstrate an in-depth ability to independently and critically assess the quality of qualitative research by reviewing and critically discussing qualitative research projects in terms of methodological consistency and ethics
- Demonstrate an in-depth ability to independently locate and evaluate literature on qualitative methodologies with relevance for a particular problem or research project in psychology

### **Course content**

The course offers an overview of methodologies used in qualitative research in psychology including their philosophical assumptions, applications as well as other important issues related to qualitative research. The participant is further encouraged to specialize in relevant literature and issues that have a particular value in relation to the participant's doctoral research. This involves independently locating important readings as well as identifying and critically discussing a particular problem or project relevant to qualitative research in psychology.

### **Course design**

The course consists of lectures and compulsory seminars. Most seminars are led by the participants taking part of the course.

### **Assessment**

As examination on the course the participant writes a paper where the student formulate and analyse a suitable problem or project relevant to qualitative research in psychology. The student also plans and leads at least one seminar and actively takes part in compulsory seminars.

### **Grades**

The grades awarded are Pass or Fail. To be awarded a grade of Pass, students must have attained the learning outcomes stated for the course in their individual paper and by completing the seminar component.

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

### **Entry requirements**

To be eligible for the course, the student must be currently enrolled as a doctoral student. If a selection of participants is necessary, first, doctoral students in Psychology,

and, second, at the Faculty of Social Sciences, have priority.

A good command of the English language, both spoken and written, equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) proficiency in the Swedish secondary system, is required. Equivalence assessments will be made according to national guidelines.

## **Literature**

Alvesson, M., & Sköldbberg, K. (2017). *Reflexive methodology: New vistas for qualitative research*. London: Sage. (Or: *Tolkning och reflektion: vetenskapsfilosofi och kvalitativ metod*, 3:e upplagan. Lund: Studentlitteratur.)

Willig, C., & Rogers, W. S. (Eds.). (2017). *The SAGE handbook of qualitative research in psychology*. London: Sage.

*Additional readings selected by the participants (approx. 400 pages).  
Recommendations will be given by the course convenor.*