

Applied Methods/*Metod i praktiken*
a PhD course held at Stockholm, Dept. of Political Science,
7.5 ECTS

Course content

This course focuses entirely on identifying and findings ways of addressing a central methodological challenge that PhD students face in their dissertation work. These challenges can be very different depending on the dissertation topic and scholarly approach. The overall purpose of the course is to provide PhD students with an opportunity to work intensively with a central methodological problem of general importance for their own dissertation project, even if they have not completely decided on the direction of their dissertation research work. This work will involve the identification and presentation of the problem; searches for studies confronted by similar challenges; and finally, devising a strategy for addressing the problem.

PhD students are active participants in each seminar; their reflections and concerns about methods structure the discussions. The course includes student presentations and assignments and offers PhD students the opportunity of meeting separately with departmental scholars with expertise in the methods that are chosen for the PhD research project. The course instructors facilitate these contacts.

Examination

Active participation in the seminars, submission of assignments and participation in the national method retreat with a paper are necessary to complete the course. The assignments and the paper are graded on the pass or not pass grading scheme.

Learning outcomes

After the completion of the course, PhD students should be able to:

- provide an overview of the main methods used in various fields of research related to their own PhD project and be able to motivate why these methods are typically employed, and understand what their challenges and advantages are for the field of study

- understand in a systematic fashion the main strengths and weaknesses of various method approaches in relation to the empirical material and theory of their own dissertation project
- identify and reflect on issues of research ethics
- identify an appropriate method for their own PhD research project and understand its general implications for the study in terms of its advantages and weaknesses
- hold a scholarly presentation based on ppt slides

Course literature

Lee Ann Fujii (2012). Research Ethics 101: Dilemmas and Responsibilities. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 45, pp 717-723. doi:10.1017/S1049096512000819.

APSA (2012) *A Guide to Professional in Political Science Ethics* Second Edition, Revised 2012. <http://www.apsanet.org/portals/54/Files/Publications/APSAEthicsGuide2012.pdf>

+ Methods literature selected together with the main teacher and/or method experts suggested by the main teacher.