

# **Research fields I + II**

*a PhD course held at Stockholm University, Dept. of Political Science*

*7.5 + 7.5 ECTS*

## **Course content**

The course aims to deepen the understanding of what a research field is, strategies for systematic reading and delineation of a field, and how to find literature. The course also aims to discuss the purposes of writing a “previous research”-section in academic texts and how reviewing literature relates to the research process and research design.

## **Examination**

The course consists of two parts. The first part, Research Fields I, is examined by:

- 1) Active participation in seminars and discussions.
- 2) The production of a reading list on a research field that includes readings of about 700 pages.
- 3) The writing of an annotated bibliography on the research field selected.
- 4) An oral presentation of the research field selected.

The second part, Research Fields II, is examined by:

- 1) Active participation in seminars and discussions of previous research plans and research applications.
- 2) Writing a review of previous research (~10 pages)
- 3) An oral presentation of the research review

## **Learning outcomes**

Upon completion of the course, participants are expected to be able to:

- identify relevant research fields
- situate their research in a wider research context
- motivate the contribution and relevance of their research with regard to this context
- identify gaps in previous research
- write an annotated bibliography and a research review of a relevant research field

## **The teaching staff**

Magnus Reitberger (course coordinator)

## **Course literature**

Blaikie, Norman (2000): *Designing Social Research*, p. 71, chapter 8. Cambridge: Polity.

Geddes, Barbara (2003): “Big Questions, Little Answers”. In: *Paradigms and Sand Castles*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, pp. 27-35.

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane & Sidney Verba: *Designing Social Inquiry*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 12-28.

Additional articles ~50pp.

Examples of previous research plans and research applications

+ Field specific literature selected together with the main teacher and/or field experts suggested by the main teacher.