



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

Faculty board of Education

PDA181, Introduction to a research environment – optional course II, 15 higher education credits

Second Cycle

This syllabus is the binding document for one course module within the International Master Programme in Educational Research.

1. Confirmation

The syllabus was confirmed by the board of the Department of Education and Special Education on 2011-03-08 to be valid from the spring term 2011.

Field of education: Education.

Department: Department of Education and Special Education.

2. Position in the educational system

The course PDA 181, research environment – optional course II, 15 higher education credits, is given within the International Master programme in Educational Research, at the Faculty of Education. The course may also be taken as an independent course.

3. General prerequisites

When the course is given within the International Master programme in Educational Research, the student should have passed the introductory course PDA085 before being eligible for the course.

When the course is given as an independent course, a first cycle degree with a minimum of 60 higher education credits in Education, or equivalent is required. Furthermore, proficiency in English equivalent to English B in the Swedish upper secondary school with at least a Pass mark, or a valid test of English as a foreign language TOEFL (232 computer-based), 575 (paper based) or IELTS with a minimum score of 6,0 in all scores, alternatively a Bachelor's degree from an education held in English is required.

4. Course content

The general aim of the course is for the student to develop a deepened understanding of the every-day work of a research group by participating in its activities and studying its background theories, concept formation, methods and results. The main course content consists in deepened studies of relevant literature and results. This is done in collaboration with researchers within the group and, if possible, by an international contact within the group's field of research.

5. Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student is expected to be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of literature, methods, and results within the chosen field of research, both historically and up-to-date.
- account for ongoing activities within the chosen field, both in a national and an international perspective
- relate the chosen field of research to adjacent fields
- present a deepened critical analysis of recent studies or articles



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

6. Required reading

List of required reading enclosed.

7. Assessment

Assessment is based on (1) a presentation and defence of a course essay, and (2) a seminar presentation of an ongoing research activity within the chosen field.

A student who has failed a test twice has the right to change examiners, if it is possible. A written application should be sent to the Department.

The number of examination opportunities is limited to five. Should the course have been terminated, or undergone greater changes, the student should be guaranteed at least three examination opportunities (including the regular examination opportunity) during a period of at least one year based on the original course.

8. Grading scale

The grades are Fail, Pass or Pass with Distinction.

9. Course evaluation

Evaluation is an integrated part of the course module. The results of the evaluation should be made available to the students and are to be considered in future course development.

10. Additional information

The language of instruction is English. Before taking this course the student is strongly recommended to have passed the course PDA180, Research environment – optional course I.



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

LITERATURE LIST

PDA 181, Introduction to a research environment – optional course II, 15
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Required reading

Chalmers, Alan F. (1999). *What Is This Thing Called Science? An Assessment of the Nature and Status of Science and Its Methods*. Buckingham: Open University Press.

Keiner, Edwin (2002). Education between Academic Discipline and Profession in Germany after World War II. *European Educational Research Journal*. 1(1) pp. 83-97.

Hofstetter, Rita & Schneuwly, Bernard (2002). Institutionalisation of Educational Sciences and the Dynamics of Their Development. *European Educational Research Journal*. 1(1) pp. 3-26.

The student together with the research group will provide a separate reading list (1500 – 2000 pages).