



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

13FH021 Contemporary research on public administration: close reading of PhD theses, 7.5 credits

Aktuell forskning om offentlig förvaltning: nära läsning av samtida doktorsavhandlingar, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation

This syllabus was confirmed by the School of Public Administration on 2020-05-25, and is valid from Spring semester 2020.

Responsible Department

School of Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences

Entry requirements

Doctoral students, currently registered on a PhD program, are eligible for admission

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course, the doctoral student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Describe and thematize contemporary research on Public Administration, its organizations, governance, management, control and context
- Display an understanding of PhD theses as scientific genre.
- Discuss and problematize trends in contemporary Public Administration research

Competence and skills

- Critically discuss and analyze PhD theses from aspects such as form, structure, and how the research was carried out
- Situate one's own PhD project to the contemporary PhD theses that constitutes the course material

Judgement and approach

- Reflect on the possibilities and challenges in the assigned PhD theses, specifically regarding aim, problematization, methodology, design and presentation in relation to one's own PhD project.
 - Discuss research independently
 - Problematize ethical aspects of scientific methods and research design
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Course content

The general goal of the course is two folded. Firstly, it aims to give an orientation of contemporary research in social sciences (as business administration, sociology, political science, public administration), that elaborate on and problematize trends in public administration its organizations, governance, management, control and context. That goal is met by the reading of, discussing and reflecting on contemporary PhD theses (not older than three years).

Secondly, the course aims to give an understanding of Phd theses as a genre. This aim is met through seminars where the PhD theses form and content is discussed. The PhD theses are selected by the participating doctoral students. The course has eight such seminars, at each three (3) PhD theses are discussed, and each participant writes a reflection to each seminar on beforehand. The course is finalized with course paper where the participant connects the two aims, the read theses and the own ongoing PhD project.

Types of instruction

The course format is seminars. Online (zoom) or, in a seminar room.

Language of instruction

The course is given in English or Swedish.

Grades

The grade Pass (G) or Fail (U) is given in this course.

Types of assessment

The course is assessed through the production of an individual problematizing paper, binding together the literature and experiences from the seminars, based upon the course's learning outcomes.

A doctoral student who has failed a test twice has the right to change examiners. In order to change examiners, a written application must be sent to the Head of Department.

Course evaluation

A course evaluation is conducted at the end of the course. Any changes in the course content, literature or pedagogy will be presented at the next course introduction.

Other information

The syllabus was originally approved by School of Public Administration 2020-05-15