



Blekinge Institute of Technology
Department of Strategic Sustainable Development

COURSE SYLLABUS

Forskningsmetodik för hållbarhet

Research Methodology for Sustainability

5 ECTS credit points (5 högskolepoäng)

Course code: SL2537

Educational level: Second cycle

Course level: A1F

Field of education: Technology

Subject group: Industrial Engineering and Management

Subject area: Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability

Version: 5

Applies from: 2017-08-01

Approved: 2017-05-26

1 Course title and credit points

The course is titled Research Methodology for Sustainability/Forskningsmetodik för hållbarhet and awards 5 ECTS credits. One credit point (högskolepoäng) corresponds to one credit point in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

2 Decision and approval

This course is established by Dean 2017-03-01. The course syllabus was revised by Head of Department of Strategic Sustainable Development and applies from 2017-08-01.

Reg.no: BTH-4.1.1-1701-2017

Replaces: SL2513

3 Objectives

The purpose of the course is for the student to (1) develop deepened knowledge about and understanding of different research methods and approaches, specifically within sustainability research, (2) develop competence and skill to critically assess and use appropriate methods and approaches, and (3) prepare for her/his master's thesis within Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability.

4 Content

The course contains an overview of different methodological approaches and methods for research in general and specifically for research for sustainability. The course provides a basic overview of concepts and phenomena in science theory (such as ontology, epistemology, bias, reliability, validity and science ethics). A particular emphasis is put on qualitative methods such as interview methods, action research methods, case study methods, and methods of design science. The course also focuses on working with delimitation and positioning of thesis topics, formulation of research issues, organization of literature studies, choice of suitable methods for research work and formal requirements

of a scientific text.

5 Aims and learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

On completion of the course the student will be able to:

- Identify key concepts and issues in sustainability science.
- Describe various research methods relevant to Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability.

Abilities and skills

On completion of the course the student will be able to:

- Conduct a literature review and to critically examine resources for their relevance and scientific contribution to her/his (developing) thesis project.
- Formulate relevant research questions and create a research plan for her/his (developing) thesis project by appropriately choosing and integrating different methods for research for Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability.

Judgment and approach

On completion of the course the student will be able to:

- Reflect on and contextualize a specific topic in relation to a systems perspective for Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability.
- Discuss key issues in sustainability science, including methodological choices in the field.
- Argue for the choice of research methods in relation to her/his (developing) thesis project.
- Discuss ethical considerations in research and specifically in relation to her/his chosen thesis topic.

6 Learning and teaching

The teaching in the course includes lectures, workshops, supervision, group dialogues, individual assignments, group work and individual reflection and reflection in groups. The lectures give a general view of many different methods in the area of interdisciplinary sustainability research.

These are deepened, applied, integrated and reflected upon through the other learning items. The student will practice how to contextualize specific topics in a full systems perspective on sustainability and to critically reflect upon research for sustainability. Teachers with many different scientific backgrounds, professional experience and perspectives take part in the course. The students' different educational backgrounds are also taken advantage of in the learning process. They are trained in receiving and giving criticism from many different scientific perspectives. Supervised group dialogues aim at cross-fertilization of the individuals' different knowledge of methodology. English

7 Assessment and grading

Examination of the course

Code	Module	Credit	Grade
1710	Written assignment 1	1 ECTS	A-F
1720	Written assignment 2	1 ECTS	A-F
1730	Written assignment 3	1 ECTS	A-F
1740	Project assignment 1	1 ECTS	G-U
1750	Project assignment 2	1 ECTS	G-U

The course will be graded A Excellent, B Very good, C Good, D Satisfactory, E Sufficient, FX Fail, supplementation required, F Fail. The final grade is weighted from the partial grades on the respective examination items. A Pass on all items is required to obtain a final grade.

If a student does not submit an assignment on time or fails a submitted assignment, he/she is given two more opportunities during the ordinary academic year of the student and one opportunity per year thereafter. Unless a valid reason has been presented and approved by the course examiner, a late submission or a re-submission of a written assignment can at most receive grade B, since the student did not demonstrate ability to perform the assignment within a specific timeframe. All submission dates are determined by the course examiner.

8 Course evaluation

The course coordinator is responsible for systematically gathering feedback from the students in course evaluations and making sure that the results of these feed back into the development of the course.

9 Prerequisites

The course Strategic Sustainability Development, 12.5 ECTS and 2.5 ECTS in Leading in Complexity must have been passed.

10 Field of education and subject area

The course is part of the field of education and is included in the subject area Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability.

11 Restrictions regarding degree

The course cannot form part of a degree with another course, the content of which completely or

partly corresponds with the contents of this course.

12 Course literature and other teaching material

Research Methodology for Sustainability

Savin-Baden, M., & Major, C. H. 2013. Qualitative research: The essential guide to theory and practice. Routledge.

ISBN-10: 0415674786

ISBN-13: 978-0415674782

Compendium with articles and other material.

