

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Methods in Social Anthropology
Socialantropologisk metod

7.5 Higher Education
Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code: SAM203
Valid from: Autumn 2011
Date of approval: 2011-09-13
Department: Department of Social Anthropology

Subject

Decision

Approved 2007-06-11.
Revised and re-approved 2008-03-17.
New literature list approved 2009-03-02.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
M203	Anthropological method	7.5

Course content

Anthropological Methods deals with how fieldwork is conducted, how anthropologists collect data, in relation to how anthropological knowledge is produced and conveyed via text. The course is organized around five themes: participant observation and other flexible forms, roles and relations of the fieldworker, the anthropological interview, ethics in the field and after, and writing – from field notes to published text.

The course discusses different methods and processes of fieldwork and strategies of material collection. Central ideas about the nature of good ethnography and how different types of fields (long-term, multi-local, mobile and transnational) are constructed, which accentuates questions about the meaning of place, are discussed during the course.

The course emphasizes how different forms of fieldwork and writing are conducted.

The course also brings up interpretation, coding and analysis of data, as well as concepts such as representation and memory. The role of the fieldworker in relation to informants, assistants and friends is another important area, which leads to discussions on reflexivity and personal and political relations of the fieldworker to his or her field.

Furthermore, during the course the impact of social distinctions of age, ethnicity and gender on fieldwork is discussed.

Learning outcomes

After having satisfactorily completed the course you should be able to display practical and theoretical knowledge about anthropological fieldwork; ranging from methodological strategies for collecting data, to practical and ethical problems related to fieldwork and the process of writing.

You should also be able to interpret and analyse the different stages of the process from collected field-notes to the published text.

Education

The teaching is comprised of lectures, seminars and practical exercises.

During the seminars the students shall on the one hand discuss and give account of the practical exercises and on the other discuss questions which relate to the literature of the course.

All lectures and seminars are mandatory.

An absence of maximum 25%, which is to be supplemented by a specified assignment.

The course evaluation will assess how well-related the implementation of the course was in regard to achieving the learning objectives.

The course is given in English.

Forms of examination

The examination consists of active participation in seminars, various written assignments in relation to course literature and the exercises. A take-home written paper may also be part of the examination.

Requirements for a passing grad in the course are:

* Attendance of 75% of the teaching. Supplemented assignment is required in case of absence.

Exams and assignments may be written in Swedish or English.

To receive a grade for the course you must be formally registered for it and attend at least 75% of the scheduled classes.

Grades will be assigned according to a seven-step, goal-related grading scale (A-F). Students receiving the grades Fx or F (failing) have the possibility of supplementing their assignments or exams and improving their grades. Supplemented or late assignments or exams cannot receive a grade higher than a C (Exceptions may be made in certain situations after consultation with the Director of Studies).

Students receiving the grades Fx or F on an exam may take the exam at least four more times (as long as the course is being given) in order to attain a grade of at least E. In order to get a final grade for the course, all assignments and exams must be passed with a grade of at least E on the seven-step grading scale.

Students who have received at least an E may not take an exam again to attempt to get a higher grade.

Students who have received an Fx or and F on a course exam twice from the same examiner may request another examiner to grade the exam. Such requests should be directed to the Department Board.

Grading criteria:

A – Excellent

* Demonstrates an excellent and well-expressed understanding of the empirical material and theoretical issues treated during the course

* Contains a high level of originality and critical synthesis

* Demonstrates a high level of comparative ability where literature from earlier studies is used in the analysis

* Contains independent reflections and interpretations that are based on the course readings

B – Very Good

* Shows a high level of independence and originality in the discussion and analysis of the course literature

* Demonstrates a high level of understanding of the relationship between theory and empirical material

* Indicates a high level of comparative ability

* Contains well-written and independent reflections and analyses which are based on the course literature

C – Good

* Shows a thorough understanding of the course literature and the important issues which the course discusses

* Demonstrates an ability to make use of this understanding in well-structured arguments and presentations

- * Shows and ability to contextualize and compare important parts of the course readings
- * Has produced a well-written exam with a clear introduction, body and conclusion which are related to the exam question

D – Satisfactory

- * A careful review of the course reading has been undertaken
- * Information from the obligatory lectures and seminars has also been used and integrated into the answers to the exam questions
- * The exam is well-structured and well-written
- * Shows a good understanding of the literature and the important empirical and theoretical issues discussed in the course
- * A well-written text with a clear introduction, body and conclusion

E – Sufficient

- * The student shows that s/he has read the literature and has an acceptable level of knowledge and understanding of the material covered and its most important issues
- * Demonstrates an acceptable amount of knowledge based on the lectures and seminars of the course
- * Provides a text that is structured based on the examination questions

FX – Insufficient

- * Shows a limited knowledge and understanding of the literature and its central themes
- * Lacks appropriate organization and structure in exam answers
- * Makes uncontextualized claims without backing them up
- * Has made a number of factual errors in the answers to the exam questions
- * Provides a too brief and unstructured text

F – Unacceptable

- * Demonstrates very limited knowledge and understanding of the literature and central issues of the course
- * Provides answers to exam questions that are irrelevant or erroneous
- * Provides answers which are so short as to make evaluation impossible

Interim

Students may demand that examination according to this syllabus be provided no more than three times during a two-year period after the course has ceased to be given. Demand for examination should be directed to the Departmental Board. Other obligatory parts of the course are also included in this rule.

Required reading

The list of course literature will be available at least one month before course start.