



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG  
Department of Political Science

SYLLABUS

## **Applied methods, 7,5 higher education credits**

*Tillämpade metoder, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

*Doctoral studies*

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### **1. Confirmation**

The course syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Political Science on 2013-02-20, and revised on 2014-02-26

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100 %  
*Department:* Department of Political Science

### **2. Position in the educational system**

The course is a single subject course in political science offered at the level of doctoral studies

### **3. Entry requirements**

A student who is enrolled in studies at the doctoral level is eligible for the course.

### **4. Course content**

The aim of the course is to give the doctoral students advanced abilities to make methodological judgments, by choosing the right tool in the methodological toolbox for their PhD project, evaluate the specific pros and cons of the method chosen, assess these pros and cons in relation to their own project and to other studies, concretely apply the chosen method to a limited research task, and evaluate the results. Particular attention will be given to the handling of any generally problems that the chosen method may have, and specific problems that are raised in relation to the concrete application to the PhD project.

The course consists of an introduction, four seminars with the group of doctoral students and the course responsible teacher, and a final workshop (metodinternat) together with doctoral students and teachers at other Swedish political science departments. The teaching is based on seminars led by a teacher, where the doctoral students describe and discuss their own and each other's identification and handling of specific methodological problems. The doctoral students are expected to submit a course paper, and present and discuss this paper at the final workshop.

## **5. Learning outcomes**

A student who successfully completes the course should be able to:

### *Skills and abilities*

- Identify and analyse advantages and disadvantages of different research methods, in relation to a given research task.
- Identify and analyse specific problems in relation to the chosen method, given the specific research question and overall research design.
- Handle methodological problems during the concrete application of the chosen method

### *Judgment and approach*

- Evaluate the outcome of the application, i.e. reflect over advantages and disadvantages with the applied method on the basis of the research task conducted

## **6. Literature**

The doctoral students are expected to search for and analyse literature that focuses on the chosen method and the specific methodological problems that are raised, including applications in research literature.

## **7. Assessment**

The student is assessed by means of the course paper and the active participation at the seminars and the workshop.

## **8. Grading scale**

The grading scale has two values, Pass (G) and Fail (U)

## **9. Course evaluation**

A course evaluation will be conducted at the end of the course. The responsible teacher will report the results.

## **10. Additional information**

Language of instruction: English or Swedish