

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Multidisciplinary Master's Thesis in Demography
Tvårvetenskaplig masteruppsats i demografi

**30.0 Higher Education
Credits**
30.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	SO9111
Valid from:	Autumn 2019
Date of approval:	2016-04-26
Changed:	2016-04-26
Department	Department of Sociology
Main field:	Demography
Specialisation:	A2E - Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Decision

This syllabus is approved by the board of the Department of Sociology, Stockholm University 2016-04-26.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

The course, Population development and social change, 7.5 credits, Basic Demographic Methods, 7.5 credits, Population processes 7.5 credits, Research Methods, 7.5 credits, Event history: Regression for Longitudinal Event Data 7.5 credits and Introduction to Quantitative Data Management and Statistics 7.5 credits or Quantitative methods in the social sciences I, 7.5 credits.

One advanced methods course 7.5 credits and one advanced theory course 7.5 credits and at least 15 credits of courses in demography.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
1MA1	Multidisciplinary Master's Thesis in Demography	30

Course content

The course is provided full-time in the last semester of the Multidisciplinary Master's Programme in Demography. In the course the student will acquire the ability to independently carry out a research project with demographic relevance and report the outcome in a thesis.

Learning outcomes

Upon the completion of the course the student is expected to be able to:

In terms of knowledge and understanding:

- Interpret demographic data and research results and discuss their validity

In terms of accomplishments and competence:

- Formulate relevant demographic research questions and hypotheses
- Link theory and appropriate methods for a specific demographic research question
- Work independently to carry out a scientific study of demographic relevance
- Write and present a scientific text with demographic content
- Write and present a report on demographically relevant questions that can be understood by persons without special knowledge in the area

In terms of attitudes and values:

- Search for, compare and critically review demographic data and literature relevant for a particular research question
- Identify and deal with ethical questions in demographic research

Education

Teaching is provided via thesis supervision and a thesis seminar.

Students are entitled to 40 hours supervision, of which amount one third is assigned as contact time.

Under extraordinary circumstances, students can be granted a change of supervisor. A request, specifying the grounds for the request, shall be sent to the teacher responsible for the thesis course. In case a change is granted, the number of hours so far consumed will be deducted from the hours of supervision with the new supervisor.

Forms of examination

The thesis is presented at a public seminar (by the student) and critically reviewed by an assigned discussant, a peer discussant and an examiner. The assigned discussant should be a PhD Candidate at least half way to the PhD degree or a researcher with a PhD degree. All students are expected to participate at two or more thesis seminars as well as to provide questions, comments regarding other students' theses.

The thesis is graded as Good, Sufficient or Not sufficient on each of the following criteria:

1. Contribution of the research to basic theoretical and empirical debates
2. Comprehensiveness and synthesis of relevant theory and previous research in the scientific literature
3. Critical approach to relevant previous research, identifying strengths and weaknesses and gaps filled by the thesis research
4. Logical organization of theory and previous research leading to the research question
5. Appropriateness of data and methods in a basic research context, and discussion of strengths and weaknesses
6. Clear and comprehensive description of data and research methods, including ethical reflections of relevance
7. Clear and comprehensive presentation of results
8. Interpretation of results in relation to previous theory and research
9. The oral defense (incl. presentation) of the thesis at a thesis seminar.

In the case that a thesis demonstrates exceptional skills with regard to theoretical argument, data management, or application of analytic methods, the total number of criteria evaluated as "good" may be increased by one.

The overall grade for the thesis is then determined as follows:

- A - Excellent: Good on at least 8 of the 9 criteria, Sufficient on all others
- B - Very good: Good on 7 of the 9 criteria, Sufficient on all others
- C - Good: Good on 5 or 6 of the 9 criteria, Sufficient on all others
- D - Satisfactory: Good on 3 or 4 of the 9 criteria, Sufficient on all others
- E - Sufficient: Good on none or at most two of the 9 criteria, Sufficient on all others
- Fx - Not sufficient: Not sufficient on 1-4 criteria
- F - Fail: Not sufficient on 5-9 criteria

Students with grade Fx or F are given an opportunity to revise the thesis to achieve a grade of E at least. A student with grade E or higher is not entitled to another examination to raise his/her degree. Students who received grade Fx or F on exams twice from the same examiner can request to be evaluated by another examiner. Such request should be sent to the Director of Studies. Students can request to have examination according to this syllabus up to three semesters after it has stopped to be valid. Such request should be sent to the Director of Studies.

As part of your responsibility as a student, it is important to know the rules that exist for examination.

Detailed information is available on both the department's and Stockholm University's website www.su.se/regelboken. Teachers are obliged to report suspicions of cheating and plagiarism to the rector and the disciplinary committee. Plagiarism and cheating always become a disciplinary matter and can lead to suspension. An example of plagiarism is to write a text verbatim or almost verbatim (also applies to single sentences) without stating the source. This also applies to texts you yourself have written before (self-plagiarism). For example, cheating includes having unauthorized aids, such as a mobile phone, on trial. Having study groups together is developing and time-saving, but when it comes to examination tasks, you must be careful to work yourself (unless otherwise clearly stated) so as not to risk it being considered unauthorized collaboration.

Interim

Students can request to have examination according to this syllabus up to three semesters after it has stopped to be valid. Such request should be sent to the Director of Studies

Misc

Student who don't complete the thesis within the course period can apply to have remaining hours of supervision transferred to a later semester. This can be granted provided that the supervisor and the Director of Studies give their approval.

Required reading

Literature and data are chosen as appropriate for the thesis project.