

Course description: **PhD obligatory course in the design and conduct of research**

Contents:

- Philosophical presuppositions of science (philosophy of science)
- Definitions and aims of science, knowledge and research in psychological, health and educational sciences
- Research ethics
- Research planning, organization and financing
- Research design
- Research methods
- Dissemination of research findings

Objectives:

General learning objectives

This programme aims to introduce and include PhD candidates into the academic community and introduce them to basic research methods in behavioural and educational sciences. Candidates should be able to understand and describe the research processes, specifically the interdependence between problem/hypotheses formulation and design and methodological issues. The course discusses the contribution of science in solving important problems in society, and how to distinguish science from other processes of knowledge development.

During this course, the candidates are expected to develop their own knowledge of and ability to reflect on important theoretical, methodological and ethical challenges and dilemmas of the research activity, with the focus on their own project. They will also have a basic (introductory) knowledge of the use of important electronic research tools like public and personal bibliographic tools and tools for production of presentations and treatment of data.

Specific learning objectives

After successful completion of the course, candidates should be able to:

- evaluate the state of empirical data
- evaluate scientific publications in terms of the relation between problem, design, method, data and conclusion
- use basic statistical packages, information, personal bibliographic packages and presentation tools
- discuss the philosophical, cultural and social basis of their own research project, as well as that of the other candidates at the course
- identify possible ethical problems with their research including funding issues and dissemination of findings

Learning Requirements:

Master Degree in disciplines relevant to educational sciences, psychology and public health.

Description of Learning Materials and Media:

To be suggested by course instructors, e.g.:

Books, electronically available papers, web sites, covering selected topics in:

Philosophy of science

Ethics

Dissemination

Methodology

Manuals

See: Reading list

Teaching Semester:

Spring term each year.

Language of Instruction:

English or Norwegian

Teaching Methods:

Based on a summary of the candidates' own research proposal, theoretical or empirical challenges will be discussed during the course. The aim is that the course will contribute to identify and clarifying certain theoretical or empirical aspects (philosophical, ethical, and methodological) of the candidates' project.

In addition there will be lectures, seminars, group work and demonstrations/ practical activities.

Evaluation:

The evaluation procedures of the Faculty of Psychology will be applied.

Assessment / Examination Format:

Pass or fail. Pass with 80 % attendance of the lectures, seminars and group work, and the approval of a paper (10-15 pages) reflecting on relevant theoretical or empirical aspects of the candidate's project. The paper is to be evaluated ("accepted"/"revise and resubmit") by the course coordinator or the appropriate course instructor. The estimated time effort for the paper is 2 weeks. Candidates should make sure to set aside sufficient time for writing the paper before the deadline, which is

June 1st 2012.

Ects:

8

Course Coordinator:

Co-ordinator of the PhD course program, currently Associate Professor Elisabeth Norman,
Elisabeth.Norman@psysp.uib.no

Administrative Contact Person:

Senior Executive Officer Helen Green: helen.green@psyfa.uib.no