



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Department of Sociology

A. Reading course in Writing a Research Review (PhD level) 7,5 hp

A research or literature review is a summarizing and critical look at the existing research that is significant to the study that you are engaged in carrying out. The idea is to identify prominent trends in today's research – as well as pointing out important contributions in the past – and assess the overall strengths and weaknesses of the existing research. The review lays the ground for an unfolding study and contextualize its findings academically.

A third level (PhD) “reading course” does not involve any teaching and typically only has one or a few participants taking part in the course. A reading course for 7,5 credits should cover an ambitious and demanding reading material, which exact page number can vary depending on the nature of texts (i.e., heavy dominance of research articles). The Department of Sociology offer reading courses to its PhD students on areas that cover either a specific topic of high relevance for the PhD thesis, or a specific area of research expertise in the Department. This course belongs to the latter category.

This course has been reviewed by the Director of graduate studies on 2020-05-27.

B. Course Details, Assessment, Grades

This course is offered by Charalambos Demetriou and/or David Wästerfors upon demand as a reading course on the readings listed under D, below. There is no teaching. The course is examined on the basis of a written paper (in English or Swedish) of 10-15 pages and/or an oral examination.

The grades for the course are awarded as Pass or Fail. To receive a Pass, the student must fulfil the learning outcomes specified for the course and demonstrate an independent, reflective, well-informed and critical relationship to the issues presented in the course.

C. Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course the student should have the skills to:

- 1) communicate information about a specific research topic,
- 2) establish the importance of this topic,
- 3) demonstrate his or her familiarity with this topic, and
- 4) carve out a space for further work, which allows one to continue the academic dialogue with the help of one's own ongoing study.

The course paper may consist of a new research review – complete or in the form of a draft – belonging to a dissertation project, but the student must also prove that the course literature has been covered. The latter should be done with a meta-reflection – oral or written – of the review process, the skills needed for constructing a review and the choices involved.

D. Admission Requirements

Applicants must be admitted to the Ph.D. program at the Department of Sociology, Lund University, or be accepted as a visiting student to that program.

H. Course Literature

Mandatory reading

Becker, Howard. S. (2007). *Writing for Social Scientists. How to start and finish your thesis, book, or article*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Brancati, Dawn (2018). "Conducting a Literature Review". *Social Scientific Research*. London: SAGE.

Efron, Sara Efrat & Ravid, Ruth (2018). *Writing the Literature Review. A Practical Guide*. New York, NY: The Guilford Press.

Eco, Umberto (2015). *How to Write a Thesis*. Cambridge, Mass. & London, England: The MIT Press. (this book can be read selectively)

Silverman, David (2017). "The Literature Review Chapter". *Doing Qualitative Research*. Los Angeles: SAGE.

Reference literature

Mason, Jennifer (2018). *Qualitative Researching*. Los Angeles: SAGE.