



Datum  
2016-03-21

1 (3)

# Course Syllabus

**Course Title:** Methods

**Course Title in Swedish:** Metod

Course Code: 2PK020  
Valid From: HT 2016  
Confirmed by: The Swedish Defence University Board of Research and Education 2016-03-21  
Department: Department of Security, Strategy and Leadership  
Subject: War studies  
Level: Second cycle  
Higher education credits: 15

**Entry requirements and specific admission requirements:**

Admission to the Master's programme in politics and war

**Main field of study:**

War studies

**Progressive specialisation:**

A1N

**Level of specialisation:**

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**Course Content and Structure:**

Methods and approaches for how to study political and social phenomena are a core component of the social-scientific endeavour and play a fundamental role in understanding and explaining war and peace, as well as security and defence policies. This course provides students with a comprehensive and systematic overview of existing approaches, methods and tools in the fields of war studies and political science. The course aims at providing students with the necessary skills to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of both qualitative and quantitative methods, as well as to be able to conduct their own research. The course covers both positivist and post-positivist approaches and methods. It opts for a pluralistic approach, focusing on the different stages of the research process: concept formation, problem construction, metatheory, research design, strategies of data collection, qualitative data analysis, and quantitative data analysis. It introduces students to both classical and well-established approaches and the research frontier in the field.

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**Intended Learning Outcomes:**

After having completed this course, students will be able to:

- Assess qualitative and quantitative research designs, particularly those relating to political science and war studies.
- Engage with social scientific concepts.
- Identify research problems.
- Develop a research design coherent with an identified research problem.
- Select among a set of strategies for data collection.
- Perform research of both the positivist and post-positivist kind.
- Analyse data using a range of qualitative and quantitative methods.

**Assessment and Examination:**

The student is assessed individually through the submission of written assignments and through active participation in compulsory seminars.

The examining teacher may decide on supplementary tasks in order for the student to achieve a passing grade (G).

The examining teacher may decide that absence from some of the mandatory seminars may be compensated through the submission of written supplementary tasks.

**Number of examination sessions:**

Unlimited

**Grading:**

Grading is done according to a three-tiered scale: Pass with distinction (VG), Pass (G), and Fail (U).

To receive a pass with distinction the student has to have participated actively in the compulsory seminars and have received a passing grade on the submitted written exams and that a majority of the submitted written exams have received a pass with distinction.

To receive a passing grade the student has to have participated actively in the compulsory seminars and have received a passing grade on all written assignments.

The grading criteria are listed in the course description.

**Reading list and study resources:**

See appendix 1.

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**Interim Regulations:**

When the course is no longer offered or when the contents of the course have been changed in their essence a student has the right to be examined twice during the same academic year according to this course syllabus.

**Miscellaneous:**

The course is given in English.

An evaluation of the course will be made after the conclusion of the course, conducted by the course convenor. The evaluation is the basis of eventual changes to the course.