1 Course content

The course aims to develop the doctoral student's knowledge and understanding of research in some area of information systems. The course further aims to develop the doctoral student’s ability to present in writing, and to critically reflect on, a specific part of the research area applicable to the doctoral student's research.

2 Outcomes

2.1 The course in relation to the doctoral programme

The course shall primarily refer to the following intended learning outcomes for third-cycle courses and study programmes as described in the Higher Education Ordinance, i.e. the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

**Knowledge and understanding**
- advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field (part of outcome 1)

**Competence and skills**
- the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis (part of outcome 3)
- the capacity to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically (part of outcome 3)
- the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively (part of outcome 4)
- the ability to review and evaluate research and other qualified tasks (part of outcome 4)
- the ability to identify the need for further knowledge (outcome 7)
The intended learning outcomes are listed in the same order as in the general syllabus for the programme.

2.2 Intended course learning outcomes

To obtain a passing grade, the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

- in-depth knowledge about relevant areas in relation to the student’s research.
- capacity to identify and synthesize relevant research and present it in writing.
- ability to assess possibilities and challenges within the doctoral student’s chosen area in the field of information systems.

3 Reading list and other teaching material

The following course readings and teaching material will be used on the course:

Literature is selected together with the supervisor, based on the area of research that the doctoral student should focus on.

4 Teaching formats

Teaching on the course takes the following format:

The course is carried out as a reading course covering scientific literature selected jointly with the supervisor, compiled into a written literature review.

5 Examination

The course is assessed through an examination in the format of

a written literature review.

6 Grades

Examinations on third-cycle courses and study programmes are to be assessed according to a two-grade scale with either of the grades ‘fail’ or ‘pass’ (local regulations).

The grade shall be determined by a teacher specifically nominated by the higher education institution (the examiner) (Higher Education Ordinance).

To obtain a passing grade on examinations included in the course, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the intended course learning outcomes as described in section 2.2. Alternatively, if the course consists of multiple examinations generating credit, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the outcomes that the examination in question refers to in accordance with section 5.

A student who has failed an examination is entitled to a retake. If an examination consists of several examination components, and a student fails an examination component, the examiner may, as an alternative to a retake, set a make-up assignment with regard to the examination component in question.
A doctoral student who has failed an examination twice for a specific course or course element is entitled, upon his/her request, to have another examiner appointed to determine the grade.

7 Admission to the course

7.1 Admission requirements

To gain access to the course and complete the examinations included in the course, the applicant must be admitted to a doctoral programme at Örebro University.

7.2 Selection

Selection between applicants who have been admitted to doctoral programmes at Örebro University and who otherwise meet the admission requirements as listed above is made according to the following order of precedence:

1. Applicants from the subject of Informatics
2. Applicants from the Business school
3. Other applicants that are enrolled in PhD-education at Örebro University.

If no other selection criteria are specified in this section, priority shall be given to applicants with a lower number of course credits left before the award of their degree over applicants with a higher number of remaining course credits. Should two or more students have equal number of credits, selection will be done through the drawing of lots. This also applies within any selection groups listed unless otherwise stated.

7.3 Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University

Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University may be given access to the course on the grounds of provisions for and/or agreements regarding contracted courses, joint degrees, national graduate schools or cooperation in other respects with other universities.

Any decisions on what such other applicants may be given access to the course are made separately and on the basis of the provisions and/or agreements that occasion the student to apply for the course.

For participation in the course in other respects, the same provisions shall apply as for doctoral students admitted to Örebro University.

8 Transfer of credits for courses, study programmes and other experience

Provisions on the transfer of credits can be found in the Higher Education Ordinance and on the university’s webpage.

9 Other information

The course is given in English and Swedish depending on the participants’ language skills. The course literature is mainly in English.
The doctoral student who has been admitted to a course has the right to receive teaching and/or supervision during the time specified for the course that the doctoral student has been admitted to. Thereafter, the right to teaching and/or supervision ceases.

**Transitional provisions**