

Systematic literature reviews, 7.5 credits

Systematiska litteraturöversikter, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Course Code/Codes	35SA052
Subject Area	Social Work
School/equivalent	School of Law, Psychology and Social Work
Valid from	2022-02-07
Approved	2022-02-07
Revised	
Approved by	Head of School
Translation to English, date and signature	2022-02-15 CHK

1 Course content

On the course, a research field within the course participants' own research areas will be examined. More specifically, focus is on:

- various strategies for undertaking systematic literature reviews,
- systematic search strategies for a review of national and international research,
- discussion of definitions, theoretical perspectives, choice of method, and results within the research field in question,
- reflection on the scholarly discourse reflected in the research field in question, and
- reflection on how the student's own research can be understood in relation to the research field in question.

Course participants' own research areas are used as starting points on the course.

Student activity on the course includes

- defining and problematising the research subject, with the student's own research area and research discipline as a base,
- retrieving, reviewing and evaluating current and previous research concerning the research subject in question,
- systematically compiling, synthesising and problematising the state of research in terms of the research subject within the research area in question,
- identifying the need for further knowledge on the research subject.

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

- broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field (part of outcome 1)
- familiarity with research methodology in general (part of outcome 2)
- familiarity with the methods of the specific field of research in particular (part of outcome 2)

Competence and skills

- the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis (part of outcome 3)
- 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)

Judgement and approach

- intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude (part of outcome 9)

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 of different types of systematic research reviews,
- ability to problematise and discuss the definition and understanding of the research subject,
- ability to identify and delimit the research subject within the research area in question,
- ability to relate the research subject to national and international research discussions,
- ability to systematically retrieve, review, evaluate, compile, synthesise and problematise existing research on the research area in question,
- ability to identify the need for further knowledge on the research subject, and
- ability to provide, orally and in writing, a nuanced account of the state of knowledge within a defined research field.

3 Reading list and other teaching material

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

Booth, A., Sutton, A. & Papaioannou, D. (2016). *Systematic approaches to a successful literature review*. (Second edition.) Los Angeles: Sage.

Petticrew M, Roberts H. (2006) *Systematic reviews in the social sciences: a practical guide*. Malden, Ma: Blackwell. Available as e-book at Orebro University Library, <http://libris.kb.se/bib/12161036>

Snyder, H. (2019). Literature review as a research methodology: An overview and guidelines. *Journal of Business Research*. 104, 333–339.

In addition, individual readings to be selected based on the searches made by the doctoral student and their specified inclusion criteria, with the condition that:

- a) The texts have undergone a scientific review.
- b) The texts discuss international research.

4 Teaching formats

Teaching on the course takes the following format:

The course is organised around workshops and compulsory seminars related to identifying the research subject and research problems as well as suitable search strategies and search words; and

to evaluating, compiling and synthesising the collected material. Special focus is given to the doctoral student's own research area.

5 Examination

The course is assessed through an examination consisting of the components listed below. The individual components are not graded separately but together they provide the basis for assessment and grading.

Participation in workshops, presentation and defence of an individually written hand-in assignment, as well as discussion of a fellow student's written assignment.

For examinations consisting of several examination components, the following applies: If during the course it is concluded that a doctoral student is unable to complete a certain examination component, the examiner may set a substitute assignment provided that circumstances do not reasonably allow for the course component to be completed at a later date during the run of the course.

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:

Priority is to be given to doctoral students from subjects within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HS).

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.

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

Transitional provisions