This course syllabus is discontinued or replaced by a new course syllabus.

ÖREBRO UNIVERSITY

Course Syllabus

Örebro University School of Business

Informatics, Qualitative Research Methods and Philosophy of Science, Second Level, 7.5 Credits

Course Code:	IK4018	**Subject Area:**	Field of Technology
Main Field of Study:	Informatics	**Credits:**	7.5
		Subject Group (SCB):	Informatics/Computer and Systems Sciences
Education Cycle:	Second Cycle	**Progression:**	A1N
Established:	2008-11-17	**Last Approved:**	2015-09-30
Valid from:	Spring semester 2016	**Approved by:**	Head of School

Aims and Objectives

General aims for second cycle education

Second-cycle courses and study programmes shall involve the acquisition of specialist knowledge, competence and skills in relation to first-cycle courses and study programmes, and in addition to the requirements for first-cycle courses and study programmes shall
- further develop the ability of students to integrate and make autonomous use of their knowledge
- develop the students' ability to deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, and
- develop the students' potential for professional activities that demand considerable autonomy, or for research and development work.

(Higher Education Act, Chapter 1, Section 9)

Course Objectives

TThe student should after completing the course
- have knowledge about central concepts of science and its main philosophical directions
- have ability to reflect upon the interlink between the major philosophical paradigms and Information Systems (IS) research
- have knowledge and skills in using qualitative research methods within IS
- have knowledge about ethical aspects of conducting research within IS
- have knowledge about communicating scientific research among the relevant stakeholders and IS research community

Main Content of the Course

Philosophy of Science:
- Science and its philosophical directions (knowledge, process and theories)
- Theorizing Information Technology (IT) artifacts
- Major philosophical paradigms in IS research (e.g. positivism, interpretivism, critical)

Qualitative Research Methods:
- Overview of the qualitative methods in IS research
- Major research strategies in IS (e.g. Case study, Design science, Action research, Ethnography)
- Data collection, including conducting literature review
- Data Analysis
- Ethics in IS research

- Communicating research progress and findings

Teaching Methods

Lectures and seminars. Participation in seminars is mandatory.

Students who have been admitted to and registered on a course have the right to receive tuition and/or supervision for the duration of the time period specified for the particular course to which they were accepted (see, the university's admission regulations (in Swedish)). After that, the right to receive tuition and/or supervision expires.

Examination Methods

Philosophy of Science, 3 Credits. (Code: 0115)
Seminar activities, home exam

Qualitative Research Methods, 4.5 Credits. (Code: 0120)
Assignment, seminars, opposition

For further information, see the university's local examination regulations (in Swedish).

Grades

According to the Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 6, Section 18, a grade is to be awarded on the completion of a course, unless otherwise prescribed by the university. The university may prescribe which grading system shall apply. The grade is to be determined by a teacher specifically appointed by the university (an examiner).

According to regulations on grading systems for first- and second-cycle education (vice-chancellor's decision 2010-10-19, reg. no. CF 12-540/2010), one of the following grades is to be used: fail, pass, or pass with distinction. The vice-chancellor or a person appointed by the vice-chancellor may decide on exceptions from this provision for a specific course, if there are special reasons.

Grades used on course are Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

Philosophy of Science
Grades used are Fail (U) or Pass (G).

Qualitative Research Methods
Grades used are Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

FINAL GRADE
The final grade will be translated into the ECTS grading scale.
In order to receive the grade Pass, the student must be awarded 'Pass' in Philosophy of Science and minimum 'Pass' in Qualitative Research Methods. In order to receive the grade Pass with Distinction, the student must be awarded 'Pass' in Philosophy of Science and 'Pass with Distinction' in Qualitative Research Methods.

For further information, see the university's local examination regulations (in Swedish).

Specific entry requirements

Informatics, Basic Course, 30 Credits; 30 Credits at the intermediate (B) course level within Informatics; and successful completion of at least 15 Credits at the advanced (C) course level within Informatics, alternatively Computer Engineering, 30 Credits, Basic Course; Computer Engineering, 30 Credits, Intermediate Course; and successful completion of at least 15 Credits at the advanced (C) course level within computer engineering. In addition, successful completion of the course "English B/English 6" from the Swedish Upper Secondary School or equivalent is required.

For further information, see the university's admission regulations (in Swedish).

Transfer of Credits for Previous Studies

Students who have previously completed higher education or other activities are, in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance, entitled to have these credited towards the current programme, providing that the previous studies or activities meet certain criteria.

For further information, see the university's local credit transfer regulations (in Swedish).

Other Provisions

Remaining tasks should be completed as soon as possible according to the teachers instructions.

Reading List and Other Teaching Materials

Required Reading

Mingers, John & Leslie P Willcocks (2005)
Social Theory and Philosophy of Information Systems
Wiley, ISBN/ISSN: 978-04-70-01121-8, 472 pages

Oates, Briony J. (2006)
Researching Information Systems and Computing
SAGE, ISBN/ISSN: 978-14129-02-24-3, 360 pages

Vetenskapsrådet (2011)
Good research practice
Vetenskapsrådets rapportserie 3:2011 [Report]

Additional Reading

Mora, Manuel (2012)
Research Methodologies, Innovations and Philosophies in Software Systems Engineering and Information Systems
IGI Global, ISBN/ISSN: 978-14-66-60179-6, 514 pages

Additions and Comments on the Reading List

Additional course material will be made available during the course, approximately 150 pages. /Litteratur tillkommer om ca 150 sidor. Tillhandahålles av institutionen.