



HS 2016/258

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board for Arts and Social Sciences on 26 February 2016 and is valid from the autumn semester of 2016 at Karlstad University. Replaces previous syllabus of 4 May 2000.

Doctoral discipline

Information Systems

Course title

Structure and Content of a PhD thesis

Credits

7.5

Degree Level

Doctoral

Language of Instruction

English. Individual supervision is offered in both Swedish and English.

Target group

Doctoral students in information systems

Aims

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to analyse and clarify:

- the structure and content of a thesis from a research perspective,
- criteria for the degree of originality, credibility and communicability of a doctoral thesis.

The aim of the course is to provide the knowledge, competence and skills necessary for writing a thesis.

Course Content

The course introduces the suitable reference frames for interpreting and analysing doctoral theses. Students then complete an independent analysis of three chosen theses in information studies. The works are to be chosen from other research environments than they themselves belong to. The selection is made in consultation with the main supervisor. The course comprises the following components:

- Writing a thesis in different international cultures
- Supervision as thesis “coaching”
- The role of the external reviewer in the thesis process

- Criteria for assessing a thesis
- Methods for examining and interpreting research publications.

On the basis of the above a critical review of the whole research process of chosen works are made in terms of research issues, basic assumptions, academic approach, use of theoretical frame, empirical results and result presentation. An interview with the author and if possible the reviewer is recommended to learn about the issues discussed at the defence or licentiate seminar.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

For a Pass grade active attendance and approved reports/essays on four different application tasks are required:

- (1) Develop an appropriate frame of reference as a basis of examining and interpreting the chosen works.
- (2) Conduct a critical review of a licentiate thesis on the basis of the frame of reference.
- (3) Conduct a critical review of a doctoral thesis (monograph) on the basis of the frame of reference.
- (4) Conduct a critical review of a compilation thesis on the basis of the frame of reference.

Students who have failed to earn a Pass grade twice for an examination task has the right to file a request for a new examiner with the Faculty Research Programmes Committee.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course. The results will be used for the development and planning of future courses.

Additional information