

Course Guidelines

Qualitative Methods, 7.5 ECTS Fall 2017

Course coordinator: Louise Wallenberg (louise@fashion.su.se)

Start of the course: Aug 31, 2017 at 10.00 in Angela

Course description

This course aims at introducing different qualitative methods used in Fashion Studies and to help students gain a wider and deeper knowledge about the variety of methods that can be used. While the focus is on the range of methods – from critical theory, textual and visual analysis to interviews and observations – the course aims at helping the students formulate and decide what method(s) will work best for them as they are to write their MA theses in the following months.

Course content

The course will cover the following methods: ethnographical approaches, including observation and interview, data collection, phenomenological approaches, critical theory, and visual, object based and textual analysis.

Learning objectives

Having completed this course, students are expected to be able to account for the most important qualitative methods used in Fashion Studies as an academic field. More specifically, students are expected to be able to:

- Define, describe and critically evaluate those methods that are characteristic for and specific to Fashion Studies as a research field;
 - Discuss the possibilities and limitations of different methods;
 - Apply at least two different methods on one type of research material.
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Course format

The course consists of a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops, oral presentations and a final written exam (the oral presentation and the written exam are both compulsory assignments). Each lecture/seminar will focus on one or two qualitative methods, with written (published or un-published) examples taken from recently published and on-going research projects, and three junior and senior guests will be coming in to lead seminars discussing how they use methodology in their own research. Students are expected to come well prepared to class and to be able to engage in discussions. Students are also expected to attend at least 80% of the seminars offered.

Assessment

The course is assessed through 1) active participation in seminars, 2) completion of an oral presentation in class, and 3) the completion of a longer essay. During the course, students will in pairs prepare an oral presentation, evaluating and critically discussing one or two methods based on an evaluation of published research that the students are assigned to search for themselves. After the series of lectures/seminars, students will write an individual 8 pages long essay in which they critically analyse and discuss the pros and contras of a couple of methods while relating these methods to their own thesis project.

Students need to compose their written assignments so that they can be presented electronically, if the teacher so requires. Written exams may be scanned with the tool Urkund. Possible fraud, such as plagiarism, will be reported to the University Disciplinary Committee. Corrected exams can be collected at the Student Office.

Examination dates

1. [2017-10-16 – 2017-10-30]
2. [2017-12-04 – 2017-12-18]

Assesment criteria

Assessment is based on a criterion-referenced scale. A, B, C, D and E are approved grades. Fx and F are failed grades. In order to obtain final approval the course requires a minimum grade of E for the written exam and that all course requirements are met.

If you do not meet the deadline for the final exam you are allowed to hand it in at a later point in time. Note, however, that the highest possible grade to obtain for those handing in late is a D.

E: Little knowledge of the various qualitative methods that are applicable in Fashion Studies. Rudimentary ability to evaluate one or two of these methods in relation to the proposed thesis topic.

D: Good knowledge of the qualitative methods that are applicable in Fashion Studies. Rudimentary ability to describe and evaluate one or two of these methods in relation to the proposed thesis topic.

C: Good knowledge of the qualitative methods that are applicable in Fashion Studies. Rudimentary ability to describe, evaluate and use one or two these methods in relation to the proposed thesis topic.

B: Solid knowledge of the various qualitative methods that are applicable in Fashion Studies. Good ability to describe, critically evaluate and use one or two of these methods in depth in relation to the proposed thesis topic.

A: An impressive knowledge of the various qualitative methods that are applicable in Fashion Studies. Impressive and convincing ability to describe, critically evaluate and use one or two of these methods in depth in relation to the proposed thesis topic.

The following applies to fail grades:

Fx : Insufficient: Mandatory course requirements are not met. Supplementary course work must be finished within one week after the result of the final exam has been reported.

F: Fail: No relevant knowledge. Handed in a defective examination or one that can not be assessed. Supplementary work is not accepted.

Plagiarism

As a student you will be writing and handing different types of written tasks. It is therefore fundamental that you know that all kind of plagiarism is strictly forbidden!

Plagiarism consists of:

- Students copying from each other;
- Students copying from internet, books, articles or other sources without a clear reference;
- Students passing a work or a citation as their own when it is not;
- All kind of cut-and-paste writing strategies.
- Any incident of this kind will be reported to the Disciplinary committee of Stockholm University. In case you are found guilty you might be suspended from the University for a period of time.

In order to avoid plagiarism you need to:

- Precise your sources by referring to the author, the book and the page in question;
- Mark that you are using someone else's words by marking it with a quotation mark;
- Precise whose thoughts you are presenting if they are not your own;
- Not pass your work to others.

Writing your own text in your own words is part of your learning process as a student and will develop your ability to think independently and express your thoughts in speech and writing.