

Course Guidelines

Research Methods in Fashion Studies, 15 ECTS Fall 2018

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Course description

This course aims at introducing different qualitative and quantitative 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, 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

This course covers qualitative methods and partly basic quantitative methods that can be applied in Fashion Studies.

In the qualitative part, students are introduced to current research and methods, and choose two methods from the humanities or social sciences or to apply on a set research material.

The quantitative part focuses on the collection and description of data, in numerical and graphical form. This part deals mainly with central and deviation measurements as well as correlation analysis. The course includes both qualitative and quantitative methods, such as ethnographic methods incl. observation and interview, visual analysis, text analysis, object analysis, critical theory, collection, presentation, analysis of data with quantitative methods, and critical evaluation of data and data sources.

Learning objectives

Having completed this course, students are expected to be able to account for the most important qualitative and quantitative 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 qualitative methods on one type of research material.
 - Define the most common statistical measurements.
 - Collect and chart data for in Excel or equivalent software.
Characterize a distribution's characteristics with central and deviation measurements.
 - Compile and interpret data in tables and charts, and critically evaluate data.
Interpret and assess statistical measurements
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Course format

The course consists of a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops, oral presentations and two written exams (the oral presentations and the written exams are all compulsory assignments). Each lecture/seminar will focus on one or two methods, with written (published or un-published) examples taken from recently published and on-going research projects, and 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) completion of two oral presentations in class and 2) the completion of two longer essays. Active participation during the seminars is required. 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

Home Exame 1: 2018-09-26 – 2018-10-03 (Re-exam: 2018-11-07 – 2018-11-14)

Home Exame 2: 2018-10-26 – 2018-11-02 (Re-exam: 2018-12-07 – 2018-12-14)

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 and quantitative 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 and quantitative 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 and quantitative 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 and quantitative 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 quantitative and 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