



## SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

### **Ethical and Methodological Dilemmas, 7,5 credits**

Etiska och metodologiska dilemman, 7,5 högskolepoäng

*Third Cycle/Forskarnivå*

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#### **Confirmation**

This syllabus was confirmed by the School of Global Studies on 27-09-2017, and is valid from 27-09-2017.

#### **Entry requirements**

In order to be eligible for the course the applicant must fulfil the general entry requirements for postgraduate studies. A good command of English is vital. Requirements are: Swedish Gymnasium Engelska B with at least a Pass mark, or a valid test of English as a foreign language, or alternatively a Bachelor's degree from an education held in English.

#### **Learning outcomes**

On successful completion of the course, the third-cycle student is expected to be able to:

##### *Knowledge and understanding*

- identify and discuss central methodological and ethical dilemmas in social anthropology, peace and development research or related fields;

##### *Competence and skills*

- discuss and problematize the ways in which other researchers/students address methodological and ethical dilemmas in their research;
- independently describe the moral and ethical challenges of their research project and argue for ways of engaging with the field to overcome these challenges;

##### *Judgement and approach*

- independently and in a reflexive manner discuss the main ethical dilemmas attached to field research;
- independently and in a reflexive manner discuss the implications of their own methodological choices, by drawing on relevant literature on ethics, morality and engagement.

#### **Course content**

The course addresses ethical and methodological dilemmas in social anthropology and peace and development research. Drawing on literature on ethics, engagement and morality in anthropological and peace and development research, it reflects on a range of problems a researcher encounters

through the research process – from planning to data collection/production, research collaboration, knowledge sharing, analysis and the communication of the outcome of their work. These include the challenge of navigating unequal power relations between researcher and “researched”, the role and position of research assistants, interpreters and gatekeepers, conducting research in insecure and difficult environments, addressing moral and conflictive issues in the research field, and engaging in necessary but not excessive self-reflection. In the course students will discuss ethical dilemmas in relation to concrete methods of collecting/producing data – mainly through interviews and ethnographic methods. The students will discuss the main ethical dilemmas that are attached to the methodological choices in their PhD projects.

### **Types of instruction**

The course is taught with a mix of lectures, readings, seminars, and the writing of papers.

*Language of instruction:*

English

### **Grades**

The grade Pass or Fail is given in this course.

### **Types of assessment**

To pass the course, the student must:

- actively participate in seminars, including a final seminar where they present and comment on texts (if a student misses a seminar, a written reflection should be submitted instead);
- submit papers where they use the course literature to reflect on ethical and methodological dilemmas of access to research contacts and interviewees, data collection/production and presentation in relation to their own research.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary. In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

### **Course evaluation**

A course evaluation is carried out after completion of the course.

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The course book list is available in the form of an appendix