Introduction to Business Research Methods  
PhD-course  
Fall 2018

**COURSE INFORMATION**

*Course leader:*  
Peter Svensson  
Office: Alfa 1:3061  
Email: peter.svensson@fek.lu.se  
Telephone: 046 222 01 86  
Office hours: By appointment

*Course administrator:*  
Charlina Lunvald  
Office: EC1:218  
Email: charlina.lunvald@fek.lu.se  
Telephone: 046 222 41 73

*Introduction to Business Research Methods* is a PhD course and a compulsory part of the PhD programme at the Department of Business Administration, Lund University. The course is 15 University Credit Points (UCP).

The aim of the course is to offer an overview of the different methodological choices available for researchers within the various sub-disciplines of business research or management studies. The idea of the course is to prepare the participants for the work with their PhD-theses as well as for the specialized courses in qualitative and quantitative methods on the PhD-program. Another aim of the course is to offer an opportunity for the participants to reflect upon the various stages in the research process: from the formulation of a research problem to writing up and publishing the research results.

The course consists of a series of seminars and lectures and an individual final take-home exam will be given at the end of the course. The classes have both lecture and seminar components and all classes are compulsory. Please, contact the course leader if you can’t make it to class.
**Literature**

Texts and articles according to the detailed schedule below (Texts marked with * will be provided).

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**SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Topic and Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 Sep</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>Room 3053 (Alfa)</td>
<td>Introduction: The course, research, academic life and so on… (Peter Svensson)</td>
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<td><strong>Preparations:</strong></td>
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<td>Prepare a three minutes presentation of your PhD-project. Even if you are very early in the PhD-studies (or perhaps even have just started), try to describe your ideal project to the rest of the group. Also read the following text (which is written for sociologists but might be of relevance for management researchers as well):</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Sep</td>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>Room 3053 (Alfa)</td>
<td>Creating problems, asking research questions (Peter Svensson)</td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>Room 3053 (Alfa)</td>
<td>Research design (Peter Svensson)</td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Sep</td>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>Room 3053 (Alfa)</td>
<td>“The contribution”: Taking part in the academic conversation (Peter Svensson)</td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Oct</td>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>3053</td>
<td>The role and function of theory (Peter Svensson)</td>
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30 Oct 14-16 Room 3053 (Alfa) **Case studies (Jens Hultman)**

Readings:


1 Nov 13-15 Room 3053 (Alfa) **Document studies (Peter Svensson)**

Readings:


8 Nov 13-15 Room 3053 (Alfa) **Analyzing qualitative data (Peter Svensson)**

Readings:


15 Nov 10-12 Room 3053 (Alfa) **Studying quantities (Pierre Carbonnier, Department of Statistics)**

Readings:


22 Nov 10-12 Room 3053 (Alfa) **Quantitative methods (Johan Anselmsson)**

Readings:

TBA

22 Nov 13-15 Room 3053 (Alfa) **Quantitative methods (Johan Anselmsson)**

Readings:

TBA

29 Nov 10-12 Room 3053 (Alfa) **Quantitative methods (Johan Anselmsson)**

Readings:

TBA
29 Nov 13-15 Room 3053 (Alfa) **Quantitative methods (Johan Anselmsson)**
Readings:
TBA

6 Dec 10-16 Room 3053 (Alfa) **Academic writing (Nick Butler)**
TBA

13 Dec 13-15 Room 3053 (Alfa) **Wrapping up and the end (Peter Svensson)**
Summary, reflections, Q&As etc..

**EXAMINATION**

The course will be individually examined in the form of an individually written essay on a topic that the student formulates after discussions with the course leader in November-December. Deadline for the essay is **20 January, 2019**. Grades: Pass or Fail.