Theoretical perspectives on methodological choices in research on ageing and health, METAFÅH

3 credits Third cycle

General information
The course is offered within the context of the Swedish Graduate School for Competitive Science on Ageing and Health (SWEAH) which is a consortium of partners from different higher education institutions and research agents coordinated by Lund University. It is included as one of four courses in the specific SWEAH curriculum, but can also be offered as a course for Swedish and international research students specialising in ageing and health.

The course is a part-time distance learning course using an online learning platform. In addition to activities on the learning platform, the course includes face to face meetings in workshops (full days) and lectures.

Language of instruction
Swedish or English

Objective
The aim of the course is to provide students with specialised knowledge of perspectives based on theories of methods and theories of science, and with considerations and arguments concerning research methods within research on ageing and health.
Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the participants shall be able to

- present and justify their choices of methods from a theoretical perspective to an academically qualified audience from other disciplines and research specialisations within ageing and health
- critically discuss and reflect on theoretical perspectives on methods within ageing and health, with regard to their implications, potential and limitations among other things, together with academically qualified individuals from other disciplines and research specialisations
- critically review and provide constructive feedback with regard to theoretical perspectives on methods within research on ageing and health to course participants from other disciplines and research specialisations

Course content

The course deals with design of and theoretical perspectives on quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods, as well as with the implications of method choices and interpretation of research results in the planned and ongoing thesis projects of the participants.

Course design

The participants complete different individual and group assignments on the learning platform. The material used for the assignments are the thesis projects of the participants. The workshops include lectures combined with presentations by the participants and group discussions. Independent study of the required reading is also included on the course and interaction with the other students is an important element.

Assessment

The course includes some different assessed components. The participants must actively attend the workshops, make presentations and participate in group discussions on theoretical perspectives on the methods used in their own and others’ thesis projects.

The learning platform assignments are assessed individually and include a presentation of the individual theoretical approach to methods, reflections on methodology with regard to the individual thesis in accordance with instructions, and feedback on the reflections of other participants.
Grades

The grades awarded are Pass and Fail.

Required reading


Instructions on selections from the required reading will be communicated by the course management and selected in consultation with course participants in relation to their own thesis projects.

In addition, research articles totalling a maximum of 100 pages will be included in accordance with instructions.