

Course Description

Argue with research (7,5 ECTS)

PEG 105

Fall semester of 2020

Course Leader: Stefan Ekecrantz

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General Introduction

The name of the course is a play with words that summarizes the gist of the course: "Argue *with* (the help of) research" and "Argue *with* (i.e., against some specific piece of) research." During the course, topics like how to write about previous research, various methods that can be used in conducting reviews of literature, and linguistic perspectives on argument, are covered. To pass the course you need to have access to Graff and Birkenstein (2018) from day one (see "Course Literature" below).

The requirements for admission are basic entry-level plus some additional English language credentials. That being said, many students in this course are highly experienced, and some even have advanced degrees. This is not a problem as we focus on aspects that beginner and senior students benefit from alike.

Technical requirements, *Athena* and *Zoom*

For information on how to activate your university student account, please visit:

<https://www.su.se/english/education/a-smooth-start/get-access-to-it-services-your-university-account-and-order-a-university-card>

To participate in the course, you need to be up and running with regards to the technical requirements of the course from day one, including access to *Athena* and *Zoom* via a proper computer. (The mobile versions of these programs do not suffice due to their limited functionality.) You also need to consider that large group meetings via *Zoom* has been shown to require higher capacity broadband than many think. You should preferably participate via cable. If you have high-speed wifi access, you may need to make sure that you work from a place close enough to the router. About one in ten students (and professors) have experienced unforeseen problems in this regard.

What time is it (in Sweden)?

Students on this course are located in several different time zones. The obligatory, scheduled events are all conducted between 13:00–16:00, Swedish time. Sometimes people find incorrect information on the internet or in mobile apps that sometimes have summer/winter time and other things wrong. (The correct time is GMT+2 between March 29 and October 25, and GMT+1 the rest of the year.) To be entirely sure, you may want to check this site:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/time/zone/sweden>



Course Structure and Content

All teaching is conducted online via Stockholm University's online learning platform *Athena* and the *Zoom* video conference system. Also, the course consists of individual and group work. The course is full-time and is conducted entirely online. Attendance in the scheduled meetings is obligatory. These are conducted via *Zoom* and *Athena* in parallel between 1:00–4:00 pm, Swedish time, on Tuesdays and Thursdays (day one is October 1, 2020).

Schedule

<https://cloud.timeedit.net/su/web/stud1/ri107055X25Z06Q6Z86g4Y55y5036Y38Q07gQY6Q50127.html>

Learning Objectives

After the course, the student is expected to be able to:

- write a literature review about a specified research field in Education,
- describe different methods that can be used in literature reviews,
- analyze supporting arguments in original research.

Examination and Grading

The assessment of the course consists of four individual assignments and one final paper. (The final paper will be circa 2000 words.) Questions about specifics will be answered continuously in the designated discussion forum "Questions & answers" in *Athena*. During the first four weeks, you will also complete weekly tasks in designated groups. These tasks are not graded as group work. However, each student will submit the group's work and commentary about it as part of the following week's individual assignment. The individual assignments are handed in on Wednesdays, and the final paper is submitted on the very last day of the course.

Grading criteria

The four individual assignments and the final paper will be assessed holistically. That means that strengths in one part may counterweigh possible shortcomings in others – and vice versa. In a general sense, all learning outcomes are equally important, but the final paper and the first learning outcome – to be able to write a literature review – encompass a larger part of the course content. The grading criteria can be described in three clusters, where degrees of quality within each level decide the individual grade:

A–B	A highly convincing argument, built on a solid body of relevant literature that is analyzed and used critically. Perfect or close to perfect use of references.
C–E	The argument is convincing, built on a proper amount of relevant literature. Proper use of references, possibly with some minor misunderstandings.
Fx–F	One or more of the following shortcomings: Not all assignments are submitted. The argument is overly descriptive. The literature used is lacking in relevance and/or quantity. The text is too short. Major flaws in the use of references.

The four individual assignments and the final paper are all relatively short pieces of work, but they are all meant to build on a workload that is proper for a full time, 7.5 ECTS credits course (i.e. five weeks of full-time study). Therefore, the quantity of literature searches, reading and analyses are important qualities in and of themselves. However, a high-quality literature review builds on a deliberate choice of relevant sources. Low-quality or less relevant sources lowers the overall assessment. In case of a failing grade, re-examination (*omprov*) is administered on December 1, April 1 and June 1. To participate in the re-examination, you need to contact the administration as well as the course leader three weeks in advance for further instructions.

Plagiarism

It is permissible to cite other sources, but both direct quotes and indirect references to a text must always be provided with correct and complete referencing to the original source. Copying or writing a shorter or longer paragraph and stating yourself as the author of the text is prohibited. This is considered plagiarism. You may also not copy your own texts that have been used in other examinations, as this is considered self-plagiarism.

An example of plagiarism is copying text verbatim or almost verbatim (this includes parts of a text and/or individual sentences) and not indicating where the text originates from. Plagiarism is also when you use another person's text and make it appear that it is your own. For example, text found in the course literature and /or texts that you have found online, or another student's course paper. Plagiarism is regarded as a crime, not only against the established research ethics code, but also against upholding general regard towards one's own and others' texts. Plagiarism is unauthorized cheating and is always subject to disciplinary reporting, which can lead to suspension. At Stockholm University, texts are checked against a database.



Cheating

As a student at Stockholm University, you are responsible for your own Education. Part of your responsibility includes knowing the rules that exist for study, examination and being on the university premises, and utilizing resources. According to the rules that apply to the university, disciplinary measures may be taken against students for:

- using unauthorized means, or otherwise attempt to, mislead an exam or when student performance is assessed otherwise;
- interfering with or obstruction teaching, tests or other activities within the framework of education.

Disciplinary matters are dealt with by the Stockholm University Disciplinary Board. The penalty may be a warning or suspension for a period of 1-6 months. Information on Stockholm University rules for examination and disciplinary cases can be found on Stockholm University's website www.su.se/regulations. Teachers are required to report a suspected suspicion of cheating to the director of studies.

Course Evaluation

The course is evaluated through an online survey which will be made available at the end of the course.

Course Literature

Denney, A. S., & Tewksbury, R. (2013). How to write a literature review. *Journal of criminal justice education*, 24(2), 218-234.

Graff, G. & Birkenstein, C. (2018). *"They say / I say": the moves that matter in academic writing*. (4th ed.) New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Powell, J. L. (2015). Climate scientists virtually unanimous: Anthropogenic global warming is true. *Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society*, 35(5-6), 121-124.

A selection of research articles*

*During the course, each student will search for and analyze a substantial number of original research articles in the field of Education.



Support during your studies

At Stockholm University, it is possible to receive extra support in addition to regular teaching.

Academic Writing Service

The Academic Writing Service provides English-language support for writing and study skills. They give talks and seminars and offer individual guidance. Their services are available free of charge to all students at Stockholm University. For more information visit:

<https://www.su.se/english/education/student-support/academic-writing-service>

Studying with a disability

If you have a documented disability, e.g. dyslexia, you have the opportunity to receive special pedagogical support. Examples of support initiatives may be note-taking, audio books, extended exam time or sign language interpretation. You must apply for special pedagogical support from Student Support Office at Stockholm University

<https://www.su.se/english/education/student-support/studying-with-a-disability>

Once the application has been received, a coordinator will contact you to arrange a personal meeting. After speaking to the coordinator, you will receive a certificate describing types of support to be offered to you.

It is the responsibility of the student to contact the student counselors at the Department of Education before a course begins in order to arrange for support. Their email address is studievagledare@edu.su.se. The student counselors will then contact the course leaders with regards to the type of support the student will need.

Contact Information

During the course, use the discussion forum "Questions & answers" in Athena for course-related questions. (Only use direct messaging for questions that do not concern the course.)

Course administrator: Emma West (emma.west@edu.su.se)

Course leader/teacher: Stefan Ekecrantz (stefan.ekecrantz@su.se)