Researching Professional Practice, 7.5 Higher Education Credits

Studera en professionell praktik 7,5 högskolepoäng

Postgraduate studies

Course leader: Karin Rönnerman

1. Confirmation
The syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Education at the University of Gothenburg on 2008-10-13 to be valid from 2009-01-01

2. Field of Education
Responsible department: Department of Education

Postgraduate level

3. Entrance qualifications/Requirements
Registered in a postgraduate programme in Educational sciences

4. Course content
This course considers the nature of professional practice, and different ways of researching professional practice. On each day of the course, leading researchers exploring professional practice will introduce some of their texts, and respond to doctoral students’ comments and criticisms. In addition, students in the course will present progress reports about their own research, relating the substance of their research to the ideas and concepts explored in the different texts provided, allowing them critically to interrogate their own work and their own understandings of professional practice in the fields they are investigating.

5. Learning outcomes
At the conclusion of the course, the students will be able to

- deeper understand the diversity of understandings about the nature of professional practice,
- determine the appropriateness (and strengths and weaknesses) of alternative
approaches to the study of professional practice, including research conducted from the standpoint of the practitioner,

- critically analyse and discuss theoretical and practical discourses in the field, and
- relate their own research to the different perspectives on practice and research into practice, and be able to better justify the choice of approaches to studying practice appropriate to different needs and circumstances.

6. Schedule for the course
The course will be held during one week in April (week 17). The course participants will meet for the mornings and closely and critically study required readings (for the next day) in the afternoons. Each morning, authors represented in the required literature for the course will introduce their texts. The students will take active roles in staring and leading discussions of particular texts. Each will be required to closely read the allocated articles or chapters before the relevant session then help facilitate discussion of the chapter by raising issues and asking questions. In separate sessions, students will present progress reports on their own research, as a platform for exploring how they are conceptualising practice and formulating research approaches they are employing or intend to employ. These presentations provide material for reflecting critically and self-critically on their own, projects and on their own conceptions of professional practice and research into practice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Author presenting and responding: Mats Mattsson (Stockholm University)</th>
<th>Student 1 Report on theses  (15 mins introduction 30 mins discussion)</th>
<th>Student 2 Report on theses (15 mins introduction 30 mins discussion)</th>
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<td>Open discussion about emerging issues about understanding and researching professional practice: formulate questions to be discussed.</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>Author presenting and responding: Wilfred Carr (University of Sheffield)</td>
<td>Student 3 Report on theses (15 mins introduction 30 mins discussion)</td>
<td>Student 4 Report on theses (15 mins introduction 30 mins discussion)</td>
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<td>Open discussion about emerging issues about understanding and researching professional practice: formulate questions to be discussed</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>Author presenting and responding: Petra Ponte (Utrecht University of Applied Sciences)</td>
<td>Student 5 Report on theses (15 mins introduction 30 mins discussion)</td>
<td>Student 6 Report on theses (15 mins introduction 30 mins discussion)</td>
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<td>Open discussion about emerging issues about understanding and researching professional practice: responses to questions formulated.</td>
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<td>Thu</td>
<td>Author presenting and responding: Stephen Kemmis (Charles Sturt University)</td>
<td>Student 7 Report on theses (15 mins introduction 30 mins discussion)</td>
<td>Student 8 Report on theses (15 mins introduction 30 mins discussion)</td>
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<td>Open discussion about emerging issues</td>
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about understanding and researching professional practice: formulate questions to be discussed

| Fri       | Author presenting and responding: **Karin Rönnerman** (University of Gothenburg)  
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           | Open discussion about emerging issues about understanding and researching professional practice: responses to questions formulated.  
|           | **Oral Evaluation**                                                              |
|           | **Student 9** Report on theses (15 mins introduction 30 mins discussion)         |
|           | **Student 10** Report on theses (15 mins introduction 30 mins discussion)         |

7. **Required reading**
See Appendix 1

8. **Assessment**
   - Active participation in all course activities is a requirement
   - Presentation of candidate’s own research – oral presentation supported by written documentation.
   - Leading critical discussion of a set chapter/article, including a response to the introduction given by the author of the text.
   - Written reflections about the concepts used in the texts (and arising in discussion) in relation to the candidate’s own research.

9. **Grading scale**
The grades are Pass or Fail

10. **Course evaluation**
An evaluation of the course will be conducted orally in the final session, led by three doctoral candidates who will facilitate the proceedings through the week and in the concluding session. At the end of the discussion, participating students will present an oral report of their discussions and views to the leaders.

11. **Additional information**
The course will be held during one week. Each seminar will be led by the author of the required reading. The postgraduate students will present and discuss ongoing research in an own seminar led by two of the students in the course. The course will be in English. A limit of students attending the course will be 10.
Appendix 1

Literature