Examiner guide paper UV9030

**Learning objectives**

Upon completion of the course, candidates

* Demonstrate understanding of different research designs and their epistemological foundations
* Can recognize methodological implications of the various designs in general terms
* Are able to compare and assess strengths and limitations of published research that employ different research designs to approach related problems
* Are able to position their own research design in the broader research traditions of the educational and social sciences

**Formal requirements of the course**

A 5-page paper (12 font, 1½ linespacing, 2 cm margins) in which the candidate compares and contrasts two published studies that use different designs to approach the same topic. Submitted assignment prior to and during the course and participation must be completed (80% attendance is required). Grades are awarded on a pass/fail scale.

**Assessment criteria**

* The two selected studies are deemed to be of high-quality and are published after 2005. Please note that the research designs in the two studies must be different, but that does not mean that choosing one qualitative (or mixed methods) and one quantitative study is the only option
* A rationale, grounded in issues related to the research designs and own research area, is offered for the selection of studies
* The two selected studies are described in a short and precise manner, offering sufficient detail on the research design (e.g. purpose statement, methodology, analytic approach) and findings
* The candidate should clearly define and articulate the main aspects of the research design that will be addressed in the paper
* The quality of the research design is evaluated both separately and across the two studies
* The research designs are discussed in light of world views (their epistemological foundations), the strengths and limitations of different research designs in relation to the area of investigation and how different research designs compliment and challenge the knowledge development within a field
* Candidates should be able to offer nuanced discussions of the different research designs by demonstrating the ability to navigate both insider and outsider perspectives
* The candidate should demonstrate an understanding of how to evaluate research designs throughout the argumentation (in the selection of studies, use of definitions and argumentation) in order to pass