

Lecture 1 - August 19th - Intro to the course

The course will take you through the following issues and topics:

- * Qualitative versus quantitative research methods (the course is about qualitative research)
- * Different philosophical assumptions, often labeled: positivist, interpretivist and critical research paradigms (we will mainly use texts from the interpretivist tradition)
- * Different types of qualitative research: case study, ethnography, action research, grounded theory
- * Methods for data collection: Interviews, observations (passive, participant), audio recording, video recording, documents.
- * Analysis; how to structure written work; the position of the researcher
- * Internet research
- * Legal aspect of research in Norway

You'll learn about different types of research (as sketched above), how to do it yourself (assignments are central for learning), and how to analyze and write up your findings. The course has one course book (Madden), which is a very practical book. In addition we will work with a number of articles, both discussing methodological issues and as exemplars of these different types of studies. See course page for literature (syllabus) + detailed teaching plan for readings and assignments.

Having passed INF5220

- * You know about different quantitative methodologies and methods that are used within the IS field when generating empirical material
- * You are able to use this knowledge in practice (experiences

with interviews and observation)

- * You can argue for your methodological choices
- * You have an understanding about the relationship between research questions, methodologies and paradigms
- * You have learned what a research design proposal should contain and have practical experience with formulating one
- * You know about the legal and ethical framework for the conduct of research in Norway

Group work:

*Ideally 4 members in each group. Discussions in groups, oral presentation in class, written assignments

– must be accepted in order to take the exam.

*You'll receive feedback on your assignments by TA (teacher assistant) Hanne Cecilie. It's not mandatory to receive feedback, but it is a great opportunity to learn and discuss. Hanne Cecilie will send out invitations through doodle.

Exam information:

* Graded marks A-F (master students)

* Passed/non passed on B+A level (PhD students)

* The grades will be based on oral exam in week 50.

The PhD-students are required to read from the additional list. In November we'll have a mini-seminar. Must be accepted in order to attend the exam.

Guest lectures:

Among others: Gisle on internet research, ethics and privacy