Graduate education: Introduction to scholarship, research tools and academic cultures

October 2015 to February 2016

The course is given to newly admitted PhD students and is one of the mandatory courses of the graduate program at the Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment at KTH.

Purpose of the course

The purpose of the course is to give an introduction to PhD studies in the humanities and social science and a basic knowledge of modern university systems.

Learning outcomes

After the course the student should have attained basic knowledge and skills in:

- Searching of literature and source material.
- Formulating relevant and fruitful research questions.
- Writing PM for a PhD project.
- Writing and organizing sources and footnotes.
- Critically review, evaluate and give feedback.

The student should also be familiar with the history of science, technology and environment and nearby academic disciplines, know what is required of a doctoral thesis, have obtained reflexive understanding of doctoral studies, academic research and the university as an institution, and comprehend the formal administrative structure and regulations of KTH.

Examination

In order to pass the course the student should have attended and actively taken part in at least 80% of the seminars and presented one thesis PM at the higher seminar and held a seminar opposition of another student’s PM.

Course main content

The course provides a comprehensive and reflexive introduction to graduate education and academic life. Seminars include topics as practical and formal aspects of financing and examination; experiences of former PhD students and supervisors; literature search and
publishing; academic writing and referencing; ways of writing and presenting a doctoral thesis; the academic milieu and the university as an institution; the humanities and the research system. All students will develop a thesis PM during the course and have the opportunity to receive feedback and advice.

**Main Teachers**
Sverker Sörlin. Professor & Peder Roberts, PhD

Additional instructors:
Mats Benner, Professor
Katarina Larsen, PhD
Tommy Westergren, Librarian
Possible invited guests

**Examiner**
Nina Wormbs, Lektor

**Schedule**

**6 October 2015**
**Seminar 1. 09.00–12.00. KTH, The Division and the history of science, technology and environment.** Place: Seminar room.

- Introduction of course.
- History of KTH and the division.

Readings:


**27 October 2015**
**Seminar 2. 09.00–12.00. Writing, references, publishing.** Place: Seminar room.

- Text, footnotes, references.

Readings:
Reference literature:

9 November
Seminar 3. 09.00-12.00 *The PhD – what does it mean?* Place: Seminar room.

- Supervision: Experiences of students and professors.
- The Thesis: Varieties, styles, traditions

Readings:
One doctoral thesis of your own choice. To be discussed on previous meetings how to choose and what to choose from.
Estelle M. Phillips & Derek S. Pugh, *How to get a PhD: A handbook for students and their supervisors* (Maidenhead: Open University Press, 2010). (Selection)

November 24, 2015
Seminar 4. 09.00–12.00. *Libraries, archives, and academic publishing.* Place: KTHB.

*Note: The seminar takes place at KTHB*

- Academic publishing and KTHB resources (Tommy Westergren)
- Bibliometrics (Katarina Larsen)

Readings:

December 2, 2015
Seminar 5. 09.00–12.00. *Seminar 5. Academic cultures.* Place: Seminar room.

Readings:

Academic novel, for example by David Lodge.
Or:
Malcolm Bradbury, *The History Man* ca 1970
John Williams, *Stoner* (1965)
Helene Uri, *De beste blant oss* (Oslo: Gyldendal, 2010).
Texts on campus literature and film.
Possible student project: see films and select one for all of us to watch together.
December 14, 2015
Seminar 6. 09.00–12.00. The university and the research system. Place: Seminar room.

Presentation of thesis plans (in the making)

Readings:

Reference literature:

January 13, 2016
Seminar 7. 09.00-12.00 Academic dissemination and careers. Seminar room.
Outreach
Blogging
Accountability systems
Expectations
Funding

February 3, 2016
Seminar 8. 09.00–12.00. PM seminar. Place: Seminar room.

Presentations of thesis plans.

Literature
Doel, Ronald E. & Thomas Söderqvist, The historiography of contemporary science, technology and medicine (London: Routledge, 2006).


Novels by:
David Lodge
John Williams, *Stoner* (1965, or later editions)
Helene Uri, *De beste blant oss* (Oslo: Gyldendal, 2010).
Göran Hägg, *Dr Elgcrantz, eller Faust i Boteå* (Stockholm: Wahlström & Widstrand, 1984).