



AK2038 Theory and Methodology of Science with Applications (Social Science) 7.5 credits

Vetenskapsteori och vetenskaplig metodik med tillämpningar (samhällsvetenskap)

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, course syllabus.

If the course is discontinued, students may request to be examined during the following two academic years

Establishment

The course syllabus is valid from Autumn 2024 according to decision of Director of First and Second Cycle Education : A-2024-0622, 3.2.2 Decision date: 2024-03-12

Grading scale

A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Education cycle

Second cycle

Main field of study

Specific prerequisites

General eligibility for second cycle studies. English B/English 6 from Swedish gymnasium or equivalent.

Language of instruction

The language of instruction is specified in the course offering information in the course catalogue.

Intended learning outcomes

After having completed the course, the student should, with regards to the theory and methodology of science, both orally as well as in writing, be able to:

- Identify definitions and descriptions of concepts, theories and problem areas, as well as identify the correct application of these concepts and theories.
- Account for concepts, theories and general problem areas, as well as apply concepts and theories to specific cases.
- Critically discuss the definitions and applications of concepts and theories as they applies to specific cases of scientific research.

These learning objectives are examined in writing via an exam and orally via seminars.

- Summarize and present research reports or scientific articles in an accessible way intended for receivers who lack expert knowledge.
- Account for structural, standard, and qualitative criteria for scientific writing and apply these criteria on research reports and scientific articles.
- Identify and critically discuss specific theoretical and methodological problems in research reports or scientific articles.

These learning objectives are examined in writing via a project work.

Course contents

The following is an incomplete list of topics covered in the course.

- Scientific knowledge
- Definitions
- Hypothesis testing
- Observations and measurements
- Experiments
- Models
- Statistical reasoning
- Causes and explanations
- Qualitative methods
- Economic methodology
- Risk and decisions of risks
- Research ethics

Examination

- PRO1 - Project, 3.0 credits, grading scale: P, F
- SEM1 - Seminars, 1.5 credits, grading scale: P, F
- TENB - Written exam, 3.0 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Based on recommendation from KTH's coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

A student can be examined in SEM1 with written assignments that replace attendance at seminars, provided that an agreement is in place for the student to take the course remotely.

Other requirements for final grade

Fullfilled seminar requirements, project requirements and written exam.

Ethical approach

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.