AK222X Degree Project in History of Science, Technology and Environment, Second Cycle 30.0 credits

Examensarbete inom historiska studier av teknik, vetenskap och miljö, avancerad nivå

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

Establishment

Course syllabus for AK222X valid from Autumn 2015

Grading scale

P, F

Education cycle

Second cycle

Main field of study

Specific prerequisites

At least 240 credits should be completed, before degree project may be started (apply engineering).

At least 60 credits of which 30 with specialisation for second-cycle studies within the main field of study should be completed before the degree project may be started (applies to the master's programme).

In addition, basic knowledge within the field of history of science, technology and environment is required. This knowledge can have been acquired via one or several of the courses that are given at the Division or in a different way.

It is the examiner that decides and controls that the student has the specialisation that is required and that the student has completed the main part of the studies before the degree project is started.

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 degree project, the student should be able to

1. demonstrate knowledge of the chosen topic's disciplinary foundation and proven experience, advanced insight into current research and development, as well as in-depth knowledge of methodology

2. show the ability to holistically, critically and systematically search, collect and integrate knowledge, and to identify the need for further knowledge

3. show the ability to identify, analyse, assess and handle complex phenomena, issues and situations, even with limited information

4. show the ability to plan and with adequate methods carry out advanced tasks within given time frames, and to evaluate this work

5. show the ability to develop and evaluate products, processes, systems, methods, or technical solutions while taking into consideration human preconditions and needs, and the society's aim for an economically, socially and ecologically sustainable development

6. show the ability to clearly present and discuss one's conclusions and the underlying knowledge and arguments in dialogue with different groups both orally and in writing

7. show the ability to make judgements considering relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects

8. show the skills required to participate in research and development work, or to work independently in other advanced activities

Course contents

The course mainly consists of an independent project work that results in an academic paper. The work should be based on a specified scientific issue that through application of a historical perspective on technology, science and environment has potential to contribute to new understanding of how human societies and cultures are changed over time. Focus should lie on the relation between technology, science and/or environment on the one side and the social progress on the other. The essay can treat historical events and processes of change both in close and in more remote past time. Geographically, the essay can treat both the Swedish society and other societies in the world.

The degree project usually includes studies of relevant theoretical literature and empirical material in the form of archival materials, printed sources, interviews and/or material relics. Large independence and initiative are assumed. Issue, theory selections, choices of empirical material and layout of the essay are designed in close cooperation with the supervisor. The Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment offers continuous, individual supervision under the degree project time from formulation of the research issue to completion of the work. In the final stage, the Division organises a seminar where the work is discussed before it is completed and accepted.

Course literature

Depending on the topic, an individual reading list might be designed.

Examination

- XUPP - Examination Assignment, 30.0 credits, grading scale: P, 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.

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

The degree project can be written in Swedish or English

Other requirements for final grade

Passed essay and completed defence of the essay at seminar

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.