



F1N5114 Theory of Science and Research Methodology, Social Science 7.5 credits

Vetenskapsteori och forskningsmetodik, 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

Course syllabus for F1N5114 valid from Autumn 2010

Grading scale

Education cycle

Third cycle

Specific prerequisites

Entry requirements for PhD studies.

Language of instruction

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

Intended learning outcomes

After completed course, the student will be able to

- account for and apply fundamental concepts from the theory and methodology of science on problem areas within the theory and methodology of science,
- account for fundamental theories concerning the epistemological and explanatory status of science,
- identify and critically discuss, both orally and in writing, fundamental theoretical and methodological issues in the social, technical and natural sciences,
- identify and critically discuss, both orally and in writing, specific metodological problems in a study, the design of an exeriment, the use of a particular method of measurement, or the use of a particular model,
- analyze the relationship between the basic results of a study and the conclusions that legitimately can be drawn on the basis of the results,
- identify and critically discuss fundamental theoretical and methodological problems within the PhD-student's area of research,
- identify and critically discuss specific theoretical and methodological problems within the PhD-student's own research,
- identify and critically discuss specific theoretical and methodological problems within others' research.

Course contents

Scientific knowledge, hypothesis testing, causes and correlations, observations and measurements, experiments, models, laws and explanations, the development of science, scientific writing and peer review, research ethics.

Course literature

Sven Ove Hansson: The Art of Doing Science.

Information on additional literature will be available no later than four weeks before the course starts.

Examination

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.

Other requirements for final grade

- Active participation in seminars (1.5 credits)
- Passed written exam (3 credits)
- Passed written essay (3 credits)

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.