



# FAK3016 Organizational theory and History: Science, Technology and Institutions 7.5 credits

Organisationsteori och historiska studier av teknik, vetenskap och institutioner

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 FAK3016 valid from Autumn 2012

## Grading scale

## Education cycle

Third cycle

## Specific prerequisites

Eligible applicants should be enrolled students in relevant PhD-program at university (or similar) in Sweden or any other country.

## 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 students should be able to identify and account for central themes and key arguments put forward in literature of organizational theory and institutional analysis. This includes some broader themes such as: studies of organizational change and stability, organizational structure, concept of institutions, interaction and boundaries between organizations. Course participants should also be able to show ability to relate themes and questions to the topic of their own doctoral thesis during seminar discussions and in a written course essay. The students should also be capable of analyzing and discussing empirical cases in the literature and show ability to reflect over relevance and implications of organizational theory and institutional frameworks of analysis for the topic of their doctoral thesis

## Course contents

The course is covering some key references in organizational theory and institutional analysis. Students are preparing for seminars by reading and preparing questions for discussion about main arguments put forward in the literature, choice of empirical case studies and synthesis of conclusions drawn from the readings and their implication on the student's own area of work. The seminars are based on lectures and student's own review of the course literature. The lectures and seminars are encompassing themes in studies of organizations and institutions, experiences from international empirical studies, and studies from the Nordic innovation landscape. The seminars with theoretical and empirical focus are addressing: structure of organizations, interactions between and within organizations; institutions (rules, norms and cognitive categories), processes of change within and between organizations.

## Disposition

Seminars and lectures are based on the course literature and students discuss main arguments in texts, different ways to define organizations and institutions, change processes and organizational history of relevance for the student's doctoral thesis. Some themes included in the course are:

- Organizations: institutions, change and stability
- Institutions: networks, sectors, fields and markets
- Interaction between organizations: university and private sector
- Organizations and emerging technology: big science and nanotechnology

Lectures by teachers and researchers from KTH and also invited seminars by scholars from international research environments, including for example, NIFU - The Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education.

Students' course essays are presented at the final seminar and each student act as opponent to two other student's essays. The presentation at the final seminar provides opportunity to discuss central themes addressed during in the course and also reflect on how they relate to the doctoral students' own topic for their doctoral thesis.

## Course literature

Kurslitteraturen omfattar centrala referenser inom organisationsteori och institutionell analys:

Meyer, J.W. and Rowan, B. Institutional organizations: formal structure as myth and ceremony (1977); DiMaggio, P.J. and Powell, W.W. (1983) The iron cage revisited: institutional isomorphism and collective rationality in organizational fields (1993); The New Institutionalism in Organizational Analysis Edited by Walter W. Powell and Paul. J. DiMaggio (1991); Hall. P. and Taylor, R.C.R. Political science and the three new institutionalisms (1996); Padgett, J.F. and Ansell, C.K. Robust action and the rise of the Medici, 1400-1434 (1993); Exchange among Charles Perrow, Oliver Williamson, Wiliam Ouchi and Alfred Chandler, from Perspectives on organizational design and behaviour (1981); Powell, W.W. Neither market nor hierarchy: network forms of organization (1990). Kursen behandlar även nya empiriska studier av förändring/stabilitet inom organisationer och gränsytan till externa aktörer (Granqvist and Laurila 2011).

Complete list of course literature is presented two weeks before the course begin.

## 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.

Examination is format is a course essay. The students present and act as opponent to two other student's essays (in writing and during final seminar). Active participation at seminars and lectures required for passing the course. In case of absence from maximum two seminars/lectures, the student can write an individual assignment to complete the course.

## Other requirements for final grade

Active participation during seminars and lectures. Write and present course essay and act as opponent to two other students' essays.

## 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.