



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 Spring 2016

Grading scale

Education cycle

Third cycle

Specific prerequisites

Eligible applicants are students who meet the requirements for admission to graduate studies in history or other humanities and social sciences.

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, and institutional logics. 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 analysing and discussing empirical cases from the course literature and show ability to reflect over relevance and implications of organizational theory and institutional frameworks of analysis for studies of history of science and technology.

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 implication on the students' own area of work. The seminars are based on lectures and students' 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 focus that are included in the course as well as some more theoretical components of the lectures are addressing: structure of organizations, interactions between and within organizations; institutions (rules, norms and cognitive categories), processes of change within and between organizations. Students' course essays are presented at seminars and students are also opponent to two other students' essays. The presentation seminar will provide opportunity to discuss central themes addressed during the course and also reflect on how they relate to the doctoral students' own topic for their doctoral thesis.

Seminars and lectures are based on the course literature dealing with themes including:

- Organizations: institutions, change/stability, and institutional logics
- Concepts of institutions, networks, organizational fields, sectors and markets
- Interaction between organizations: collaboration between university and private sector
- Organizations and emerging technology with examples from history of science and technology

Lectures on these themes also includes presentations by invited external scholars.

Course literature

The course includes some key references in organizational theory and institutional analysis, including:

- Institutional organizations: formal structure as myth and ceremony (Meyer and Rowan 1977);

- The iron cage revisited: institutional isomorphism and collective rationality in organizational fields (DiMaggio and Powell 1983);
- The new institutionalism in organizational analysis (Eds. Powell and DiMaggio 1991);
- Political science and the three new institutionalisms (Hall and Taylor 1996);
- The problem of emergence (Padgett and Powell 2014);
- Exchange among Perrow, Williamson, Ouchi and Chandler, Perspectives on organizational design and behavior (1981);
- Neither market nor hierarchy: network forms of organization (Powell 1990); Institutional evolution and change (Hoffman 1999).

The course also includes studies of organizational change and emerging technology (Granqvist and Laurila 2011), institutional logics (Thornton and Ocasio 2008) and historical institutionalism (Suddaby et al. 2014).

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 lectures and seminars, write an essay using relevant course literature, presentation of student's own written essay, opponent on 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.