



# FDH3377 Dis-Course 4,5 hp 4.5 credits

Dis-kurs 4,5 hp

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 FDH3377 valid from Autumn 2019

## Grading scale

P, F

## Education cycle

Third cycle

## Language of instruction

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

## Intended learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- Read a doctoral thesis critically
- Evaluate strengths and weaknesses in a doctoral thesis and argue for and against this position

- Discuss design and contents of a doctoral thesis
- Formulate questions about the issues of the doctoral thesis
- Understand the dissertation situation, roles and routines
- Reflect on the defence of a doctoral thesis

## Course contents

The course focuses on the thesis and contents, presentation and defence of the same. The aim is that the students should read and discuss five doctoral theses and take part of the defence of the research. Furthermore, the role of a doctoral thesis in a historical and social context will also be discussed.

Each doctoral student follows individually the course with 3 theses (with pre- and post-meetings) that are chosen individually. Preferably participates more than a pupil in a certain essay reading for better reflection and discussion. The theses can be within doctoral students own field but preferably a mixture of different theses are good, both within the own section and other university/research field.

The thesis should be read in full and be discussed under two meetings with a senior researcher that has read the thesis. Preferably, this should be a member in the examining committee or the opponent. It is not recommended to discuss the thesis with the supervisor for the author of the thesis.

Pre- meeting: discuss the advantages with the thesis. Which weaknesses/strengths with the thesis? Which questions come be set under the thesis?

Public defence of doctoral thesis: be active and make notes.

Post- meeting: made the thesis go as expected? Where it some you became surprised over? Where your completed formulated questions that are set under the defence? Where clarifications have been made under the defence? Have you changed your understanding of the essay by visiting defence and by participation in this course? How was the procedure, is this a standard procedure?

## Specific prerequisites

PhD student

## Examination

- EXA1 - Report writing, 4.5 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.

Written essay

## Other requirements for final grade

Approval of written essay

Attending and actively contributing to discussion seminars

## **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.