



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

SLUkurs

Syllabus

PNG0032 Philosophy of Science for postgraduate students, 7.5 credits

Syllabus approved

2011-02-04

Subjects

Other Social Science

Education cycle

Third cycle

Grading scale

Pass / Failed

The requirements for attaining different grades are described in the course assessment criteria which are contained in a supplement to the course syllabus. Current information on assessment criteria shall be made available at the start of the course.

Language

English

Prior knowledge

To have been accepted as a post graduate student at a university department

Objective, including learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student shall:

- be able to account for the distinct scientific traditions of social sciences and natural science

- be able to account for basic scientific concepts and arguments in social sciences.
- be able to actively use philosophies of science to deepen and strengthen the research
- be able to comprehend the connection between philosophical traditions and methodologies
- be able to distinguish between distinct levels and forms of scientific analysis and be able to account for their epistemological preconditions.
- be able to maintain a reflexive position in relation to one's own theories and methods of research and comprehend their scientific history and context

Content

This course offers a general introduction into the philosophy of science, describing the distinct scientific traditions. The students will be introduced to the main philosophies of science, specifically the contexts, contents, arguments, and main concepts and assumptions of these philosophies. The course intends to introduce the students to the main scientific foundations and considerations of social sciences. There will be a specific focus on how distinct traditions of philosophies of science have tackled problems related to epistemology and interpretation.

Requirements for examination

For successful completion of the course the students will be required to write an essay and actively participate in seminars.

Additional information

The course is given as part of the post graduate research school 'Northern Rural Areas in Transition' at the Department of Urban and Rural Development at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

Essay details: Approximately 12 pages (4 500 words). The text must be double-spaced, and in 12 pt Times New Roman. Number the pages, and include your name on every page. The essay may be written in English or Swedish.

The application should be sent to Elinor Carlbrand, be written in English and include:

- name, affiliation, full address, e-mail and phone number

- name and affiliation of PhD supervisor
- description of PhD project (0,5-1 page)

Responsible department

Department of Urban and Rural Development