



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

SLUkurs

Syllabus

PFG0030 Philosophy and Ethics in Science, 6.0 credits

Syllabus approved

2008-03-31

Subjects

History/Philosophy

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

Admitted to PhD education

Objective, including learning outcomes

The objective of the course is for the students to: i) acquire a basic understanding of the philosophy of science and a general knowledge of ethics in science, ii) enhance their ability to engage in independent reflection and critical dialogue on

philosophical and ethical problems regarding the scientific approach, not only with regard to the students' own work, but also with regard to science in general.

Content

The course gives an introduction to the philosophy of science, and a general orientation of central problems dealt with within this subject. Different scientific traditions and their basic methodological approaches are discussed. Themes dealt with are e.g.: the concept of knowledge, science – pseudoscience, hypotheses - the testing of hypotheses, causes - explanations, science – values – society. The course further gives an introduction to ethics, and an orientation with regard to ethical considerations within science. Themes such as ethical theories, research ethics, researcher's ethics, the content and values of regulations, scientific fraud and scientific misconduct are dealt with.

Requirements for examination

Apart from active participation in seminars, the examination consists of a two short papers in which themes within the scope of the course are dealt with. These papers are to be orally presented to the other course participants. The PhD student is expected to relate the chosen themes to the student's own PhD project, or some (central) question(s) within the student's own field of research.

Additional information

Course Organiser
Faculty of Forest Sciences, SLU, Umeå

Responsible department

Faculty of Forest Sciences