



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

SLUkurs

Syllabus

PNSo203 Philosophy of Science, 5.0 credits

Syllabus approved

2020-09-16

Subjects

Other Social Science/Agricultural History/Rural Development/Landscape Architecture/Landscape Planning/Environmental Communication

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

Accepted as a PhD student

In entering the course students must possess basic knowledge of philosophy of science.

Objective, including learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the students shall be able to:

- account for and critically discuss distinct scientific paradigms of social sciences
- actively use philosophies of science to deepen and strengthen their own research work
- distinguish between distinct levels and forms of scientific analysis and be able to account for their ontological and epistemological preconditions.

Content

The course offers a general introduction to philosophy of science, describing and analysing distinct scientific paradigms and perspectives. The students will be introduced to the major philosophical paradigms of science, with a specific focus on the contexts, contents, arguments, and main concepts and assumptions. There will also be a focus on how researchers position themselves in relation to the field, as well as on how distinct paradigms of philosophies of science have tackled problems related to ontology, epistemology and interpretation. Furthermore, the course will discuss the connections between philosophy of science and social theory, with a distinct focus on the development of these connections during the last decades.

The core of the course will consist of a series of seminars, introduced by lectures. The seminars will be dedicated to analysing original texts by central social science writers in order to see how philosophical assumptions influence them as well as to discuss general problems of philosophy of social science. The course will be divided into four parts, each devoted to one central question. Lectures will partly be used to present and discuss important theoretical paradigms, concepts and problems of philosophy of science, and introduce central themes that will be discussed in the seminars.

Requirements for examination

For successful completion of the course the student must write an essay of approximately 12 pages (4 500 words), focused on a subject presented by the teacher, and actively participate in lectures and seminars.

The essay may be written in English or Swedish.

Additional information

The course is offered by the research school Society and Landscape (SL) at the Department of Urban and Rural Development.

Responsible department

Department of Urban and Rural Development