



SLUkurs

Syllabus

PNG0001 Philosophy of Science, with focus on Man and Nature, 4.5 credits

Syllabus approved

2004-03-11

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

Swedish

Prior knowledge

Admitted to any graduate program.

Objective, including learning outcomes

The course is intended to give an introduction to the philosophy of science, as well as a deeper knowledge and insight of the role of man in Nature, and how the relation between man and Nature has changed during history.

Content

The course presents problems and basic conceptual tools from philosophy and the theory of science. Different views on the role of man in nature will be discussed, also from different cultures and historical periods. The course will also highlight how various sciences differ in terms of:

- how concepts and theories are formed
- explanatory models
- existence of general principles and laws
- relation between observation, theory and reality
- relation between understanding and the possibility of prediction
- interaction between holism and reductionism
- the view on determinism and indeterminism
- application of qualitative and quantitative methodology

In addition, different historical perspectives on how man relates to nature, and how man views the possibilities to reach and even control the physical reality outside himself.

Requirements for examination

Active participation in 75% of the seminars, as well as a written and oral project report.

Additional information

The course is organised as a series of seminars during three months. There is also an introductory and concluding course weekend at Sigtunastiftelsen.

Responsible department

Department of Energy and Technology