

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Philosophy of Science

Vetenskapsteori

7.5 Higher Education

Credits

7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	SU7239
Valid from:	Spring 2013
Date of approval:	2012-12-05
Department	Department of Social Work
Main field:	Social Work
Specialisation:	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

Decided by the departmental board of the Department of Social Work, Stockholm University.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Social Work or other Bachelor's degree, or the equivalent. Swedish B/Swedish as a second language and English A, or the equivalent.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
0001	Philosophy of Science	7.5

Course content

This course has two parts.

The introductory section deals with

- the field philosophy of science with special focus on social science.
- fundamental ontological and science-philosophical traditions and their relevance for social science research practice.
- such concepts and research aspects as 'theory', 'explanation', 'conclusion', 'classification', and 'definition' from a science-philosophical perspective.

The second section deals with

- fundamental social science research paradigms and their importance for the research process.
- vital aspects of the research process from a science-philosophical perspective.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the introductory section of the course the student shall be able to:

- give an account of ontological and science-philosophical theoretical traditions of relevance for social science theory and research,
- reflect over the connection between craftsmanship in the research process and principal theoretical aspects.

Upon completion of the advanced section of the course the student shall be able to:

- give an account of the essential content of current research paradigms and their connection to social science research,
- independently identify and analyse methodological problems in the research process,
- critically examine theories and scientific works from a science-philosophical perspective.

Education

Instruction is in the form of lectures and seminars.

Forms of examination

Examination is by individual written tasks and/or oral reporting.

Grading is individual and related to specified learning outcomes according to the following scale:

- A Excellent outstanding performance with only minor errors
- B Very good above average standard but with some errors
- C Good generally sound work but with a number of notable errors
- D Satisfactory fair but with significant shortcomings
- E Sufficient performance meets the minimum criteria
- Fx Fail some more work required before the credit can be awarded
- F Fail considerable further work required

To pass the course students must have obtained at least a grade E in examinations and have actively participated in seminars and group tasks if any.

Information on grading criteria and forms of examination will be distributed at the start of the course.

For information on the rules for examination and re-examination as approved by the Board of the Department of Social Work see separate information sheet.

Students have the right to request re-examination with another examiner if failed twice. Such requests must be made in writing to the director of studies no later than one year after the latest event.

Required reading

Becker, H.S. 1998.

Tricks of the Trade. How to Think About Your Research While You Are Doing It.
Chicago: The University of Chicago Press [219 s.].

Benton, T. & Craib, I. 2001.

Philosophy of Social Science. The Philosophical Foundations of Social Thought.
Basingstoke: Palgrave [178 s.].

Berger P.L. & Luckman, T. (1984). The social construction of reality : a treatise in the sociology of knowledge.

Harmondsworth : Penguin Books

Bourdieu, P. 2004.

Science of Science and Reflexivity.

Oxford: Polity. [129 s.].

Delanty, G. & Strydom, P. (eds.) 2003.

Philosophies of Social Science. The Classic and Contemporary Readings.

Maidenhead; Philadelphia: Open University Press. [urval].

Grbich, C. 2004.

New Approaches in Social Research.

London: Thousand Oaks, New Delhi, Sage [126 s.].

Harding, S. (ed.) 2004.

The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader. Intellectual and Political Controversies.

New York: Routledge [370 s.]

Lechte, J. (1994)

Fifty Key Contemporary Thinkers : From Structuralism to Postmodernity.

London; New York, Routledge

Elektronisk resurs.

Montuschi, E. 2003.
The Objects of Social Science.
London: Continuum [119s.].

Sohlberg, P. & Sohlberg, B-M. 2006.
Kunskapens Former □ Vetenskapsteori och Forskningsmetod.
Stockholm: Liber [220 s.]

Ziarek, E.P. (2001)
An Ethics of Dissensus : postmodernity, feminism, and the politics of radical democracy
Stanford, Calif.; Stanford Univerity Press. (288 s).
Elektronisk resurs.

Tillkommer material i form av avhandlingsutdrag och artiklar [ca 200 sid]