

# Philosophy of Science for the Humanities and Social Sciences

Single subject and programme course

7.5 credits

Vetenskapsteori för humaniora och  
samhällsvetenskap

720A05

Valid from:

**Determined by**  
The Quality Board at the Faculty of Arts  
and Sciences

**Date determined**  
2011-04-26

## Main field of study

Theoretical Philosophy

## Course level

Second cycle

## Advancement level

A1X

## Entry requirements

In order to be admitted to the course, the student must be accepted as a Master or Doctorate level student in the Humanities or Social Sciences at Linköping university. Documented knowledge of English equivalent to "Engelska B"; i.e. English as native language or an internationally recognized test, e.g. TOEFL (minimum scores: Paperbased 575 + TWE-score 4.5, internetbased 90 TWE-score 20), IELTS, academic (minimum score: Overall band 6.5 and no band under 5.5), or equivalent.

## Intended learning outcomes

After completion of the course, the student should in an advanced level be able to;

- give an account of central positions in the philosophy of science, especially regarding the humanities and the social sciences
- display an awareness of scientific theories in general and their impact on the humanities and the social sciences
- show an understanding of how the limitations of science and technology play a role for society at large
- display an understanding of how art and science interact and affect each other
- show an improved understanding of the nature of science and the values that are of central importance for scientific practice.

## Course content

The course covers topics and problems as the question of what science is, possible differences between science and pseudoscience, different ways to conceive of and historical perspectives on scientific method, the relationship between science and technology and the relationship between the natural sciences and the humanities and the social sciences, as well as the methods used in these disciplines. The course also covers topics as crisis and progress in science, and an analysis of common techniques and methods in art and science. The relationship between biological theories and normative statements about the organization of human affairs is covered, as well as the questions of what kinds of methods and theories may be required to achieve knowledge about human minds.

## Teaching and working methods

In the course, central scientific theories are described and discussed. These theories are studied by reading primary sources, combined with seminar discussions. Students are expected to read, analyse and prepare questions about the texts before each seminar. At the beginning of the course, students are to choose a theme within a session, and be prepared to respond to questions about this theme. Seminars and lectures. The seminars are mandatory. Language of instruction: English

## Examination

The course examination consists of seminars and written assignments. Active participation in the mandatory seminars is part of the examination. Detailed information about the examination can be found in the course's study guide.

## Grades

Three-grade scale, U, G, VG

## Other information

Planning and implementation of a course must take its starting point in the wording of the syllabus. The course evaluation included in each course must therefore take up the question how well the course agrees with the syllabus. The course is carried out in such a way that both men's and women's experience and knowledge is made visible and developed.

## Department

Institutionen för kultur och kommunikation