



Philosophy of Science with Natural Philosophy (7,5 hp)

Level: 1st cycle
Course ID: 0270

Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. Students taking part in the course as a part of their Bachelor's degree program must have completed Course A, Introduction in Philosophy and Theology (30 ECTS credits).

Educational goals

After completing the course, students are expected to be able to:

- give an overview of some of the central questions in philosophy of science, as well as some of the main tenets in the thought of some of the central philosophers of science;
- show that s/he understands and can use some central concepts in philosophy of science and natural philosophy;
- show the ability to critically reflect on and analyze some central questions in philosophy of science and natural philosophy.

Course content

The sciences occupy a prominent place in contemporary thinking, as well as in today's society in general. In this course we will take a closer look at the different sciences' knowledge claims and methods. In what sense can science be said to provide knowledge? What claims do the sciences make to describe reality? Can they help us understand fundamental aspects of the world, such as its temporal and causal structure, or the phenomenon of life in the physical universe? And what are the possibilities and limitations of the scientific method? Only through such an analysis can scientific knowledge claims be compared to knowledge claims in other areas.

Teaching and examination

Instruction will be in the form of lectures and discussion seminars (in person and/or online). Examination for the first half of the course (philosophy of science) will be in the form of an essay (5–7 pages, constituting 50 % of the final grade). Examination for the latter half of the course (natural philosophy) will be in the form of a written essay (3–4 pages) and an oral exam (each comprising 25 % of the final grade).

Bibliography

- Chalmers, Alan, *What Is This Thing Called Science?*, 4th ed., Maidenhead, UK: Open University Press, 2013.

A selection of articles and excerpts from books, being provided through the online teaching platform during the course.

Reference Resources

- Dainton, B. *Time and Space*, 2nd edn., Durham: Acumen Publ., 2010.
- Humphreys, Paul (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Science*, Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2016.
- Johansson, Lars-Göran, *Philosophy of Science for Scientists*, Berlin: Springer, 2015.
- Lowe, E. J. *A Survey of Metaphysics*, Oxford et al.: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Rosenberg, A., McShea, D. W. *Philosophy of Biology: A Contemporary Introduction*, New York and Oxford: Routledge, 2008.
- Saudek, D. *Change, the Arrow of Time, and Divine Eternity in Light of Relativity Theory*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020.

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

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Valid as 2023-01-15