

What is Nature? (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: PHILOSOPHY and THEOLOGY (Systematic Theology and Theological Studies of Culture and Society)

Course ID: 0255

Admission requirements

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

Educational goals

After completing the course, the student is expected to:

- Understand the complexity of the use of the term “nature” in philosophy, theology and science and to be able explain the different ways in which the concept of “nature” was used through history and is used today.
- Be able to recognize and to explain how our interpretation of nature shapes the way we relate to it.
- Show the ability to create an intellectual framework that is a help for decision making that affects nature.

Course content

The course is divided in three parts: The first part analyses the *use of the term “nature”* in philosophy and theology in a historical perspective, giving special attention to modern times and the development of the dichotomy between nature and culture. The second part focuses on the *hermeneutics of nature*, how we experience it and how this experience expresses itself in for example literature or aesthetic theory. The third part will look at our *use of nature* (medicine, forestry etc.) and what this use does to nature (GMO, diversity etc.).

Teaching and examination

Teaching is given by means of lectures and discussion seminars in Uppsala and during interviews and excursions. Examination is taken in three ways: 1. Students are expected to do assigned readings, to participate actively in working sessions (30% of the final grade); 2. To write short assignments on topics occurring during the course (30% of the final grade). 3. The content of the

entire course will be examined through a written home exam at the end of the course (40% of the final grade).

Bibliography

Clingerman, F; Treanor, B. et al. (ed.) Interpreting Nature: The emerging field of environmental hermeneutics (New York, Fordham University Press: 2014), 377 pages.

Compendium of selected articles that will be distributed at throughout the course.

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

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