Ph.D. Course in Philosophy of Science and Ethics

Course Code: DSP100_2, Credits: 10 credits
Semester tuition start & duration: Spring, Autumn, 1 semester
Exam term: Spring, Autumn

Course staff
- Ståle Gundersen (Course coordinator)
- John Roscoe (Course teacher)

Introduction

Level and extent
The course (DSP100) covers the requirements for training in philosophy of science and ethics for PhD-candidates and gives 10 ECTS credits.

Target groups and admission
PhD-candidates at the University of Stavanger and at cooperating research institutions may participate in the course. University of Stavanger employees may also participate, if they are in the process of planning a PhD-degree. Due to a limited number of places, all candidates must apply to participate.

Content
There will be arranged two parallel series of seminars: one in the philosophy of natural science and another in the philosophy of social science/humanities. Each candidate participates either in the seminars in the philosophy of natural science or the seminars in the philosophy of social science/humanities. In addition, there are seminar series in general philosophy of science and ethics. These seminars (in general philosophy of science and ethics) are relevant for all candidates. The candidates will be informed about the curriculum related to the seminars in advance of the seminars.

Teaching methods
The course will be held as seminars with discussions. The seminars will be concentrated at the beginning of the semester.

Each candidate is required to write an individual paper, discussing a topic of particular interest. The paper must be presented in a lecture by the end of the course semester.

Required prerequisite knowledge
None
Exam

The paper will be evaluated and if it is approved, the candidate is required to present its principal points in a 20-minute lecture. The subsequent discussion will last approximately 10 minutes. A group of candidates will present papers in succession the same day, and it is required that the candidates take part in the subsequent discussions. The presentation is a coursework requirement. The result of the evaluation is "passed" or "failed".

In exceptional cases, approval of a paper may be made dependent on a revision of the final manuscript. In such cases, the candidate will be given a deadline for handing in a revised manuscript, which will be given a new evaluation.

Content and extent of the paper

The topic(s) discussed in the paper may be linked to the candidate's own project. The candidates will decide which topic(s) to discuss in collaboration with his or her supervisor connected with the course. The extent of the paper should be between 4000 and 6000 words. The paper shall be written in English or in one of the Scandinavian languages, and it will be assessed by the candidate's supervisor connected to the course, who will provide feedback to the candidate. The candidate will then be given some time to finish the paper.

In the paper the candidate should demonstrate awareness of counter-arguments against his or her own positions and conclusions. Analytical discussion and academic argumentation will be required. A loose combination of arguments will not be accepted.

Papers addressing discipline-specific topics relating to the foundational debate within specific disciplines must, to some degree, also relate to general reflections and concepts of philosophy of science or ethics.

Delayed presentation

Candidates who are not able to hand in and present their paper during the course semester must ask for a delayed presentation. The application should be sent to the Faculty of Arts and Education, and must state legitimate reasons for the delay. This delay cannot be more than three (3) months. Only one delay will be allowed.

Open to

D-SPESPED, D-OFFSH, D-PETEK, D-LESEVIT, D-BIOKJEMI, D-INFTEK, D-RISKSIK, D-SAMSIK, D-LEDELSE

Course assessment

The course participants are encouraged to contribute to the course evaluation. The first evaluation form will be sent to the candidates on e-mail soon after the seminars are finished,
and the second evaluation form will be sent when all papers are handed in.

**Literature**

**Pensum i DSP100**

1. **Ethics**

   1. *Ethics and Ethical Theories*
      

   2. *Consequentialism and Utilitarianism*
      

   3. *Deontological Ethics*
      

   4. *The Status of Moral Norms and Rights*
      

   5. *Virtue Ethics*
      

6. **Ethical Argumentation**


   6. *Ethical Argumentation (continues)*
      
7. Research Ethics

* National Committee for Research Ethics in Science and Technology (NENT) (2008), ´Guidelines for Research ethics in science and technology´. This article must be downloaded at: http://www.etikkom.no/English/Publications/NENTguidelines (29 pages).

* The National Committee for Research Ethics in the Social Sciences and the Humanities (NESH) (2006), ´Guidelines for Research ethics in the social sciences, law and the humanities´. This article must be downloaded at: http://www.etikkom.no/English/NESH/guidelines/ (44 pages).

8. Risk, Decision Theory and the Precautionary Principle


9. Tolerance and the Right to Free Speech


2. General philosophy of science


3. Philosophy of Natural Science

Textbook


Articles and excerpts from books


4. Philosophy of Social Science/Humanities Readings

Textbook


Articles and excerpts from books


Exact information about the curriculum will be sent to the PhD-candidates approximately one month in advance of the seminars.