PhD Course in Philosophy of Science and Ethics

Course Code: DSP100_3, Credits: 10 credits
Offered by: Faculty of Arts and Education, Department of Education and Sports Science
Semester tuition start & duration: Spring, 1 semester
Language of instruction: English

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

Learning outcome

Knowledge
The student will gain knowledge of:

* The philosophical foundations for different theoretical research approaches in the social sciences and the humanities.

* The ongoing debates in research ethics related to the social sciences and the humanities.

Skills
By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

* Use conceptual and theoretical tools in her/his own argumentation.

* Facilitate critical reflection and argumentation upon presuppositions that may easily be taken for granted in their own research tradition, or in science as a whole.

* Critically analyse ethical issues within the fields of social sciences and humanities

General competence
By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

* Demonstrate competence in analytical discussion and well-structured academic argumentation.

* Relate discipline-specific topics to the foundational debate within the disciplines.

* Address discipline-specific topics to general reflections and concepts (like the ones discussed in the seminars) of philosophy of science and research ethics.

Content

The course will give a broad orientation on central issues in the philosophy of science and research ethics particularly related to the social sciences and the humanities. The course will focus on the following topics:
* The philosophical foundations for the interpretative tradition
* The philosophical foundations for the naturalistic tradition
* The relation between naturalism and interpretationalism in the human sciences
* Models of explanation
* Constructivism in the human sciences
* Holism versus methodological individualism
* Research ethics

**Teaching methods**

The course will be held as lectures and seminars with discussions. There will be 10 seminars: 6 seminars in philosophy of science and 4 seminars in ethics.

A detailed timetable will be sent to the course participants at the beginning of the semester.

**Required prerequisite knowledge**

None

**Exam**

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Evaluation will be based on one individual paper (6000 words (+/- 10%)) and a final oral examination (approximately 30 minutes).

The candidate will have the option to write the paper in one of two different fields: Philosophy of Science or Research Ethics. The oral examination will cover the field not chosen for the paper.

The paper must be written in English or in a Scandinavian language.

The paper must be handed in within 6 weeks after the final seminar. In the case of a rejected paper, the candidate will have two more weeks to improve the paper.

The student must pass the paper and the final oral examination in order to pass the course as a whole.

**Coursework requirements**

* Active participation in lectures and seminars.
Open to
PhD candidates enrolled in PhD programmes at the University of Stavanger (Faculty of Arts and Education and Faculty of Social Sciences) and at cooperating research institutions may participate in the course.

Course assessment
The course participants are encouraged to contribute to the course evaluation. An evaluation form will be made available to the candidates after the papers are handed in.

Literature
(The following list might be subject to minor changes)

Philosophy of Science
Textbook

Articles


Research Ethics

General overview


Articles


Approximately 750 pages: 500 pages for philosophy of science and 250 pages for research ethics.