



## COURSE SYLLABUS

# Theory of Science, 7.5 credits

*Vetenskapsteori, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

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<b>Course Code:</b> FHVET37	<b>Education Cycle:</b> Third-cycle level
<b>Confirmed by:</b> Director of Education Jun 2, 2020	
<b>Valid From:</b> Autumn 2020	
<b>Version:</b> 2	

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### Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

After completing the course, students should be able, within the areas below, to:

#### Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate familiarity with and broad knowledge of the theories of science
- in an in-depth manner, reflect upon and problematize the choice of research methods in relation to different scientific starting points.

#### Skills and abilities

- demonstrate the ability to use in-depth scientific analysis and independent critical investigation and assessment of theoretical scientific assumptions
- constructively analyse and critically investigate their own research and that of others from a scientific theory perspective.

#### Judgement and approach

- show in-depth insight into and evaluate the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used.

### Contents

- traditions, key concepts and approaches in philosophy of science
- positivism, Popper and paradigm
- social constructionism, critical realism and feminism
- contemporary debates in philosophy of science
- distinction between ontology, epistemology and methodology.

### Type of instruction

The course is comprised of lectures and seminars. The course is performed every three terms, every other time on campus in Swedish and every other time web-based in English.

The teaching is conducted in English.

### Prerequisites

To be enrolled in the course the student should have 240 credits, 60 of which should be at the advanced level, including a written paper of 15 credits.

**Examination and grades**

The course is graded Fail (U) or Pass (G).

The course examination is comprised of individually written papers and opponentship.

The course examiner is an associate professor or professor.

**Other information**

Attendance in seminars is mandatory.

The course is run as part-time study unless otherwise stated.

**Selection**

1. Students registered in the Research School of Health and Welfare
2. Students registered in researcher education from another seat of learning
3. Other applicants: credits (with equal credits, drawing of lots)

**Course literature**

Alvesson, M., & Sköldböck, K. (2009). *Reflexive methodology: New vistas for qualitative research*. London: Sage.

Belenky, M.F., Tarule, J.M., Goldberger, N.R., & Clinchy, B.M. (1997). *Women's Ways of Knowing: The Development of Self, Voice, and Mind*. New York: Basic Books.

Hacking, I. (2000). *The social construction of what?* Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Danermark, B., Ekström, M., Jakobsen, L., Karlsson, J. Ch. (2006). *Explaining society: critical realism in the social science*. London: Routledge.

Ladyman, J. (2001). *Understanding philosophy of science*. London: Routledge.

Further scientific articles and reports may be added.