



Faculty of Social Sciences

SKOP19, Strategic Communication: Philosophy of Social Sciences, 7.5 credits

Strategisk kommunikation: Vetenskapsteori för samhällsvetare, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Strategic communication on 2015-06-10 and was last revised on 2016-04-26. The revised syllabus applies from 2016-08-29, autumn semester 2016.

General Information

The course is mandatory during the first semester in the Master of Science Programme in Strategic Communication, 120 credits. The course takes place in Helsingborg.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Strategic Communication

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate in-depth understanding for the relevance of the philosophy of social science for the social sciences,
- demonstrate an advanced understanding of the development of the philosophy of social sciences,
- demonstrate in-depth understanding of various major 'schools of thought' in the philosophy of social science,

Competence and skills

- demonstrate an ability to argue from an analytical and dialectic perspective on the philosophy of social sciences,
- demonstrate an ability to write an analytical and reflective paper on philosophy of science,
- demonstrate an ability to judge the soundness of sophisticated, complex scientific arguments,

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate an ability to judge the limits of what research can do, what scientific results mean, what social sciences can and what they cannot explain.

Course content

The course introduces the students to the philosophy of science in general and particularly to an analytical and dialectic perspective on the philosophy of social sciences. The student is introduced to a multicultural, dialectic and perspectivistic approach to the philosophy of social sciences. In the course central debates and pictured dichotomies in the philosophy of social sciences are treaded, for example objectivism, realism, rationalism, interpretism, intentionalism, and nomologism. Special emphasis is given to treat the legitimacy of social sciences in the context of philosophy of social science.

Course design

Teaching includes lectures and seminars.

Assessment

Assessment is based on:

- a presentation prepared by the students with discussion based on literature provided by the lecturer,
- an exam in the form of an individual academic paper,
- an opposition of other students' paper,
- an oral exam.

In connection with the course students are offered three examinations, a regular examination, a re-examination and one additional re-examination. Within one year after the course, students are offered a minimum of two additional re-examinations. Thereafter, more examinations are offered but in accordance with current course content.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail (U). The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

The course grade is determined by the mean of the grades of the marked exams (in A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, E = 1) weighted in accordance with the credits assigned to the respective exam. To pass the course, the student must have received at least the grade E on all components of the course marked with the grading scale E – A, F, and pass all other components marked with the grading scale Pass – Fail, and participated in all compulsory components

Course components such as seminars and the opposition are exempted from the grading scale above. Where applicable the grades awarded for these components are Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

Entry requirements

Admitted to the Masterprogram in strategic communication, 120 credits.

Further information

The course cannot be part of a degree together with SKOP18 Philosophy of Science, 7.5 credits.

Subcourses in SKOP19, Strategic Communication: Philosophy of Social Sciences

Applies from H16

- 1601 Presentation, 1,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1602 Opposition, 0,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1603 Exam, 3,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1604 Oral exam, 2,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A

Applies from H15

- 1501 Philosophy of Social Sciences, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A