Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

FTUA21, Theoretical Philosophy: Critical Investigator - Level 2, 30 credits

Teoretisk filosofi: Kritisk utredare - Fortsättningskurs, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2025-06-04 (U 2025/148). The syllabus comes into effect 2025-06-04 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

General information

The course is compulsory part of the BA programme in Theoretical Philosophy: Critical Investigator.

Language of instruction: Swedish
Teaching in English may occur on some modules.

Main field of study	*Specialisation*
Theoretical Philosophy	G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to give an account of the current theories of Theoretical Philosophy regarding problems concerning the basic constitutions of language, knowledge and reality, in particular as these relate to investigative work,
- be able to give an account of the basic principles of derivation and translation in propositional calculus and predicate logic,

Competence and skills

- be able to analyse individual philosophical arguments and theories and compare and contrast them to each other, and show how they can be applied in investigative work,
- be able to carry out basic translations and derivations in propositional calculus and predicate logic,
- be able to give an account of newly gained knowledge and insights of Theoretical Philosophy in both written and oral form, as part of a group or individually,
- be able to account for and critically discuss arguments and theories in Theoretical Philosophy, orally and in writing, and in part also as pertains to investigative work,

Judgement and approach

- be able to evaluate individual philosophical arguments, as well as complete philosophical theories, either individually or in relation to other arguments/theories and investigative work,
- be able to formulate relevant criticism of single arguments or complete theories from the perspective of Theoretical Philosophy,
- be able to identify and take a position on the roles of the basic assumptions of ontology, philosophy of language and epistemology regarding methods used in the evaluation of individual theories or arguments.

Course content

The course aims to increase students' knowledge in the key areas of Theoretical Philosophy: epistemology, the philosophy of language, issues concerning metaphysics in analytical philosophy and logic. In addition to in-dept studies in individual subject areas, emphasis is placed on issues concerning how positions taken in one particular subject affect positions taken in another. Emphasis is also placed on proficiency training, in part in order to develop specific skills within formal logic, and in part in order to increase the student's ability to express him/herself in philosophical terms both orally and in writing. Throughout, but especially in the sub-courses on epistemology and philosophy of language, there is special emphasis on theories and concepts of relevance to investigative work.

The course consists of the following sub-courses:

Epistemology, 7.5 credits

The subcourse is an introduction to contemporary, analytic epistemology, but also offers a historical perspective. The course contents comprises, among other things, analysis of the concept of knowledge, the value of knowledge, and skepticism and philosophical problems concerning knowledge. Particular attention is given to questions concerning the conditions of information gathering, which are of central importance to investigative work. Reading original texts in epistemology is a central to the subcourse.

2. Formal Logic, 4.5 credits

The subcourse covers the basics of sentential and predicate logic. In sentential logic we introduce atomic sentences, connectivesss and formal rules of proof in natural deduction. In studying predicae logic, students will learn the semantics of the quantifiers, translation into sentences of first-order languages with mixed quantifiers, and some central concept of predicate logic, such as tautology, consequence and equivalence.

3. The Philosophy of Language, 7.5 credits

The subcourse covers central theories and problems in philosophy of language, both as pertains to where the subject stands today and how it has developed during the 20th century. Particular emphasis is placed on the theory of reference (the study of how our language relates to things in the world), the theory of meaning, and pragmatics (the stduy of how language relates to context and how it can be used to perform actions). In the final part of the subcourse we investigate how these tools can be used to understand language phenomena of particular importance to investigative work, but also in general social context.

4. Philosophical Logic, 3 credits

The subcourse is divided into three segments. The first segments takes up natural deduction with quantifiers, numerical quantification and prenex normal form. The second segment covers set theory, introducing naive set theory, some set theoretical paradoxes and Zermelo-Fraenkel set theory. In the third segment we cover some metalogical theories and results, such as Tarski's definition of truth in a model and Gödel's completeness and incompleteness theorems.

5. Metaphysical Issues in Analytical Philosophy, 7.5 credits

In this subcourse we study a set of fundamental questions about the constitution of reality (the area known as ontology) and also its structure. Examples of questions addressed are: What are properties? What is modality? What is causality? What is time?

Course design

Teaching consists of lectures, text and essay seminars, and practical exercises. There is an obligatory seminar in subcourse 3.

The University is responsible for ensuring that an alternative date or comparable assignment is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar situation. This also applies to students who miss teaching sessions owing to activities in an elected position as student representative.

Assessment

Subcourse 1: Examination by a written invigilated exam and oral presentation of an individual assignment

Subcourse 2; Examination by invigilated exam and a diagnostic test. The diagnostic test is graded pass/fail only and the student may make two attempts at passing it for each exam opportunity. A passing grade on the test is a prerequisite for taking the exam.

Subcourse 3: Examination by a take-home exam

Subcourse 4: Examination by a written invigilated exam

Subcourse 5: Examination by a written invigilated exam

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
To be awarded a Pass on the whole course the student shall have the grade of Pass on all sub-courses. To be awarded Pass with Distinction on the whole course the student shall have the grade of Pass with Distinction on at least 15 of the 30 credits on the course, and a grade of Pass on all remaining credits.

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course requires the successful completion of FTUA11, or the equivalent.

Further information

- The course is given by the Department of Philosophy, Lund University
- The course overlaps with FTEA21.
- The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.
- The sub-course names in Swedish:
    1. Kunskapsteori,
    2. Formell logik,
    3. Språkfilosofi,
    4. Filosofisk logik,
    5. Metafysiska frågor i analytisk filosofi.