

“Philosophy and History of Scientific Thought” 7.5 p.

Welcome to the course “Philosophy and History of Scientific Thought,” start Thursday September 28, 2017 at 10.00 am, room 21D302. Information about the content and structure of the course is given below. For course registration and additional information contact Secretary Kerstin Moatti, email kerstin.moatti@kau.se.

Language: English.

Note that on Thursday September 28 during the discussion with other students you should make a 15-20 minutes presentation of your research field to students in other fields than your own (i.e. it has to be fairly popular presentation; power point facilities are available). Note that *this is part of the examination*. See also the information below for additional things you need to prepare for before and for each week during the course.

Literature for “Philosophy and History of Scientific Thought” 7.5 p.

Mandatory:

- Popper, K.R., *A Pocket Popper*, Eds David Miller, Fontana paperbacks, London. Ch. 7-15. Sv. översättning: *Popper i urval av David Miller*, Thales, Stockholm 1997.
- Kuhn, Th., *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, The University of Chicago Press, third edition, 1996 (or later). (Note, not the Swedish translation.) Ch. 1-9 + postscript 1969.
- *Good Research Practice*. Swedish research council publication. Available for free at www.vr.se homepage under Ethics and Publications (also now available on the *course ITS home page* among other course material).
- A book choice of your own relevant for the history and/or philosophy of your own field (discuss your choice with the course leader Claes Uggla during the course). If you are not able to come up with a relevant book choice you can use: Chalmers, A. F., *What is this thing called Science* (Open university press; mostly relevant for NT) or e.g. Kjörup Sören, *Människovetenskaperna*, Studentlitteratur 1999 or Jens Höytrup, *Human Sciences: reappraising the humanities through history and philosophy* (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2000) (both mostly relevant for HS). Note that as part of the examination you should motivate and review your choice, see below.

Examination

- a. Course attendance. (The need for course attendance is rather obvious since the examination is to a large extent based on presentations and joint projects.)
 - b. You are allowed to miss one day without any consequence (if you miss a day involving part 2 or 3 below tell the course leader Claes Uggla; we will arrange for you to do your part another day).
 - c. You are allowed to miss one additional day, but then that day has to be replaced with a short essay on 3 pages about some of the topics that have been brought up during the missed 2 days.
2. Oral presentation for 15-20 minutes about the course participant's own research or research field, in a way the other course participants (coming from different research areas) can understand.
 3. Project on ethics project together with other students; see schedule, and joint oral presentation of this project.
 4. 6 pages motivating and describing your own book choice. Note that when writing about the book choice it is also possible to use other material that puts this choice into context. The purpose with this assignment is partly to allow the student to produce material that might form a background to an introduction for a PhD thesis that situates the thesis in a larger context (the PhD thesis part is something desirable, but not necessary; it is allowed to pick something that just broadens your horizons, in agreement with the syllabus).

Deadline, which will be strictly held, for submitting all the above (including material due to missed attendance of course lectures and discussions), is **December 10, 2017**. If the material has not been submitted at this time, the course participant will have to take the course again at some future time.

Group discussions and ethics projects

The group discussions and the ethics projects are a central part of the course. To make this as useful as possible for you and the other course participants you need to prepare.

- Week 39: Preparation for the first group discussion week 39 is obvious since it involves giving a talk about your research topic. Power point facilities are available so it is possible, but not necessary, to use a power point presentation.
- Week 41: For the group discussion on Thursday October 12 on science demarcation and pseudo-science you need to prepare. This includes having read *A Pocket Popper* and the written material + videos on the course home page on ITS.
- Week 43: You should have read the book *Good Research Practice* since this book forms the starting point for the group ethics projects which start on Thursday October 26. For the group discussion on Friday October 27 you need to have read the book *The Structure of Scientific Revolution*, especially the postscript.
- Week 45: Work on the ethics project continues on Friday November 10, including preparing for the presentations of the ethics projects week 47. Also use this week to

discuss your book choice with the course leader Claes Uggla (but you are of course allowed to do this earlier in the course if you so want).

- Week 47: Group presentations of the ethics projects.

Welcome to the course,
Claes Uggla, June 15, 2017.