



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION AND LEARNING

FOU1830, Critical evaluation of scientific work, 7.5 credits

Kritisk granskning av vetenskapliga arbeten, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation

This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Pedagogical, Curricular and Professional Studies on 2019-02-11, and was last revised on 2024-03-28 by the Department of Education, Communication and Learning. The revised course syllabus is valid from Spring semester 2024.

Responsible Department

Department of Education, Communication and Learning, Faculty of Education

Entry requirements

To qualify to the course, the student has to be registered as a PhD student.

The recommendation is to participate when some experience of postgraduate studies (third-cycle studies level) has been achieved, for example in connection with or after the halfway seminar.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course, the third cycle student is expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- give account for and critically examine the theoretical, methodological and empirical content of scientific work.
- give account for and critically examine how dissertations during a public defense are put into a scientific context.

Competence and skills

- demonstrate an understanding of the content and structure of scientific work, as well as its assessment grounds and procedures.

- show awareness of and ability to analyze scientific conversations in the form of seminars and public defense.

Judgement and approach

- reflect upon the subject's relevant and current scientific questions.

Course content

The aim of the course is that the course participants develop a critical and systematic understanding of the content and structure of scientific work, as well as its assessment grounds and procedures, with particular focus on doctoral theses and dissertations / licentiate theses and licentiate seminars. The course will also give increased awareness and ability to analyze scientific conversations in seminar and dissertation form.

Types of instruction

The course is structured around final seminars and dissertations according to the following model:

The course participants read and discuss theses from both the author's and the discussant's / opponent's perspective. The course participants are then present at the final seminar or the public defense. At a follow-up seminar, the final seminar / public defense is discussed with regard to both the opponent's and the respondent's discussion of the content of the thesis, and partly on how the opposition was structured and presented.

The course participants read the same theses and attend the same dissertation seminars. Dissertations at other faculties than the faculty of education can be the subject of reading and discussion.

Language of instruction

The course is given in Swedish but can be given in English if necessary

Grades

The grade Pass (G) or Fail (U) is given in this course.

Types of assessment

The course is examined through active participation in seminars in the treatment (preparatory seminar + final seminar /public defense + post-seminar) of five dissertations, as well as a final written reflection on critical examination (opposition) of a scientific work.

Course evaluation

Course evaluation is conducted together with the participants, partly on a continuous basis and partly at the end of the course. The evaluation will be taken into account in the implementation

of the current course as well as in the development and planning of future courses.

Other information

The course is dependent on the availability of public defense and final/licentiate seminars and needs to be given for a longer period of time than one semester, preferably one year. A public defense /seminar at another faculty or university may be used during the course. Participants can also, in agreement with the course leader, individually choose to attend other dissertations than the joint ones. In such cases, an oral and written report shall be made for the entire group.