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 is valid from Spring semester 2019.

Responsible Department
Department of Pedagogical, Curricular and Professional Studies, Faculty of Education

Entry requirements
To qualify to the course, the student has to be registered as a PhD student. In the case where there are more qualified applicants than number of seats, priority will be given to students at the Faculty of Education.

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
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 / licenses. 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.