



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, LINGUISTICS AND THEORY OF SCIENCE

FP30110, The ethics of exploitation: theory and applications, 7.5 credits

Exploateringens etik: teori och tillämpningar, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation

This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Philosophy, Linguistics and Theory of Science on 2025-04-10, and is valid from Spring semester 2025.

Responsible Department

Department of Philosophy, Linguistics and Theory of Science, Faculty of Humanities

Entry requirements

General and specific entry requirements for third-cycle education according to Admissions Regulations and the general syllabus [allmän studieplan] for Practical Philosophy.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the doctoral candidate will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate enhanced knowledge and understanding of the subject areas of the course,
- discuss in detail key theories and issues in one or more of the subject areas of the course,

Competence and skills

- offer a detailed analysis of issues, lines of arguments or methods from the literature,
- select and define issues, lines of arguments or methods from the literature that are suitable for a short critical essay or a conference paper,

Judgement and approach

- critically discuss, orally or in writing, questions, lines of arguments or methods that are used in the literature,
- critically assess the validity of the studied lines of argument.

Course content

This course provides an overview of discussions about exploitation in contemporary moral and political philosophy and an in-depth treatment of some specific philosophical problems in this area. Topics covered may include: What is exploitation? What, if anything, is morally wrong with exploiting people when they benefit from and consent to being exploited? How is the concept of exploitation related to other ethical concepts, such as harm and coercion? What should states and other third parties do to prevent or mitigate exploitation? How is exploitation related to structural injustices? What role does the concept of exploitation play for social criticism (e.g., in the socialist and feminist traditions)? These topics are explored in part by analyzing real-world practices where exploitation is often thought to occur, e.g., “sweatshop” employment, human subject research, and surrogacy.

Types of instruction

Teaching is conducted in the form of individual reading assignments and discussions in seminars or with the teacher individually.

Language of instruction

The course is given in English

Grades

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

Types of assessment

The course is examined individually through written or oral assignments.

Course evaluation

The course is evaluated by way of a written questionnaire or oral feedback.