



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND WORK SCIENCE

SC30001, Sociology of knowledge perspectives on research traditions and theory of science in an educational context, 5 credits

Kunskapssociologiska perspektiv på forskningstraditioner och vetenskapsteori i utbildningsvetenskapligt sammanhang, 5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation

This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Sociology and Work Science on 2018-06-19, and was last revised on 2024-04-03. The revised course syllabus is valid from Autumn semester 2024.

Responsible Department

Department of Sociology and Work Science, Faculty of Social Sciences

Entry requirements

Qualifying applicants are persons admitted to postgraduate studies at the University of Gothenburg or another university. The course is mandatory for persons admitted to the research school in education science that aims to complete a doctorate, who therefore have priority to the course.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Explain and critically review differences between traditions within the field of theory of science, in particular regarding the concepts of knowledge and truth.
- Account for the socially conditioned and situated nature of knowledge in educational sciences contexts

- Account for the ways that class, gender and ethnicity bear a stamp on the researcher and the research process as well as the research participants

Competence and skills

- Demonstrate an ability to discuss consequences of different scientific theoretical traditions in terms of research ethics.
- Demonstrate the ability to discuss one's own position as a researcher

Judgement and approach

- Independently reflect on and evaluate how one's own approach as a researcher can help reproduce or change inequalities
- Evaluate the relevance of different theory of science positions for one's own dissertation work
- Relate to research ethics issues that are actualized in one's own dissertation project from the sociology of knowledge viewpoint

The course is sustainability-related, which means that at least one of the learning outcomes clearly shows that the course content meets at least one of University of Gothenburg's stipulated criteria for sustainability labelling.

Course content

The course provides knowledge about different traditions of theory of science, such as positivism, social constructionism, post-structuralism, and realism, that is, different views in relation to questions about the nature of reality, how we as researchers gain knowledge about reality as well as how claims to scientific knowledge are justified and legitimated within different methodological approaches.

In addition, the course sheds light on the socially conditioned and situated nature of practical and scientific knowledge. Based on this basic assumption of sociology of knowledge the course gives advanced knowledge about the ways that class, gender and ethnicity characterizes the research process and the research results.

Taken together, the course contributes to shed light on how the researcher's choices may contribute to the reproduction or change of inequalities.

Types of instruction

The forms of instruction are lectures and seminars.

Language of instruction

The course is given in English

The course is given in English but the final paper can be written in Swedish.

Grades

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

Types of assessment

The course is examined by two assignments: an oral presentation of advanced literature at one of the course seminars and a written individual assignment including opposition to a fellow course participant's written assignment at the end of the course. In order to pass the course, active participation in all seminars is also required.

Course evaluation

The course is subjected to a written evaluation.

Other information

The course is sustainability-related, because one learning outcome is to independently reflect on and evaluate how one's own approach as a researcher can help reproduce or change inequalities based in gender, class and/or ethnicity. This entails knowledge about how own activities, and/or future professional or occupational activities, impact social conditions in a global perspective.