



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Cultural Studies

Syllabus

History of Ideas II: Meta Theories - Science, Culture, Politics

Course Code:	KVGH23
Course Title:	History of Ideas II: Meta Theories - Science, Culture, Politics <i>Idéhistoria II: Metateorier - vetenskap, kultur, politik</i>
Credits:	7.5
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G1F)

Major Field of Study:
KSU (Cultural Studies)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2019-09-03, and is valid from the Spring semester 2020 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

30 ECTS credits in History of Ideas, Philosophy, History, Cultural Studies, or Political Science, with at least 22.5 ECTS credits completed, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- give an account of some of the most important intellectual traditions and the most discussed problems in theory of science and philosophy of science in the past 100 years,
- give an account of some central politico-philosophical and cultural theoretical approaches today,

Competence and skills

- identify different interpretative alternatives in reading meta-theoretical texts,
- summarise some main features of meta-theoretical discussions in the past decades and actively participate in current meta-theoretical debates,

Judgement and approach

- discuss the social and historical context of meta-theories, and
- critically approach the consequences of meta-theoretical views on the relation between knowledge and culture in terms of power, conflict, and representation.

Content

The course has a meta-scientific approach, focusing on the theory of science and philosophy of science from positivism to postpositivism as well as contemporary cultural theory and political philosophy, studied from the perspective of history of ideas. Students are expected to reflect critically on the theoretical and social basis of science, the relation between knowledge and power, the challenges to contemporary democracy, and different views of the general conditions and crises of Western culture.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, presenting overviews of essential content, and mandatory seminars on course content in the light of course literature, in which students discuss their understanding orally and in writing.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on a take-home exam and active participation in seminars at which written individual hand-in assignments are regularly discussed.

The examiner may decide that a student who is very close to a passing grade can complete a supplementary assignment to receive a passing grade for a specific examination. If this is a possibility, the students must be informed in writing no later than the start of the course, and the examiner must specify when and how such a supplementary assignment may be permitted.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to special pedagogical support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

