



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Cultural Studies

## Syllabus

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

<b>Course Code:</b>	KVGH23
<b>Course Title:</b>	History of Ideas II: Meta Theories - Science, Culture, Politics <i>Idéhistoria II: Metateorier - vetenskap, kultur, politik</i>
<b>Credits:</b>	7.5
<b>Degree Level:</b>	Undergraduate level
<b>Progressive Specialisation:</b>	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 2021-09-07, and is valid from the Spring semester 2022 at Karlstad University.

#### Prerequisites

30 ECTS credits in History of Ideas, Philosophy, History, Cultural Studies, or Political Science, with at least 15 ECTS credits completed, or equivalent

#### Learning Outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

1. 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,
2. give an account of some central politico-philosophical and cultural theoretical approaches

today,

Competence and skills

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

Judgement and approach

5. discuss the social and historical context of meta-theories, and
6. 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**

Learning outcomes 1-6 are assessed based on active participation in seminars.

Learning outcomes 1, 2, and 4 are also assessed based on an individual written take-home exam.

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 Targeted Study 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.