

# Course Schedule

## Philosophy of Science, 729G19, KVTill, VT 2019

**Course leader:** Valdi Ingthorsson (valdi.ingthorsson@gmail.com)

### Main course literature:

Samir Okasha, *Philosophy of Science – a very short introduction*, Oxford University Press.

Swedish alternative: Johansson, L-G, *Introduktion till vetenskapsteorin*, 2:a uppl., Stockholm 2003.

<b>180402</b> 13:15 – 17	Introduction to the Philosophy of Science. What is science, knowledge, truth, justification, and objective reality? The hypothetico-deductive model.	A36
<b>180403</b> 10:15 – 12	Positivism and the theory-dependence of observations. Falsificationism. <i>Read chapter 1-2 Okasha and online article by Chalmers (see link below).</i>	R41
<b>180404</b> 13:15 – 15	Theory of Paradigms. Hermeneutics <i>Read chapter 5 Okasha and online article by Bird and the Wikipedia entry on 'Paradigms' (see below).</i>	A31
<b>180410</b> 10:15 – 12	<b>Discussion Seminar</b> <i>Hansson, 'Science and pseudo-science'</i>	P42
<b>180411</b> 13:15–15	Realism and anti-realism. <i>Read chapter 4 Okasha</i>	A31
<b>180416</b> 13:15 – 15	Explanation in the sciences: <i>Read Chapter 3 in Okasha</i>	R41
<b>180417</b> 10:15 – 12	Group 1: <b>Discussion Seminar</b> Analysis of research papers	P42
<b>180418</b> 13:15 – 15	Group 2: <b>Discussion Seminar</b> Analysis of research papers	A31
<b>180423</b> 13:15 – 15	The Philosophy of Qualitative Research <i>Read Ashley Crossman (2018). 'Qualitative Research Methods': Available online: <a href="https://www.thoughtco.com/qualitative-research-methods-3026555">https://www.thoughtco.com/qualitative-research-methods-3026555</a></i>	A32
<b>180424</b> 10:15 – 12	What is Truth, really?	A32
<b>180425</b> 13:15 – 15	Philosophy of the Social Sciences <i>Read online article by William A. Gorton, 'Philosophy of the Social Sciences' (see link below)</i>	A31
<b>180430</b> 13:15 – 15	Recap of the contents of the course	P32

<b>180502</b> 13:15 – 15	Workshop. <i>Lecturer available to answer unresolved questions before the exam</i>	A31
<b>190503</b> 14-18	Examination	
<b>180507</b> 13:15 – 15	Group 1: <b>Discussion Seminar</b> <i>Read Ingthorsson, 'Natural vs. Human Science'</i>	P42
<b>180508</b> 10:15 – 12	Group 2: <b>Discussion Seminar</b> <i>Read Ingthorsson, 'Natural vs. Human Science'</i>	R41
<b>190607</b> 14-18 <b>190814</b> 8-12	Opportunities to resit examination	

**Examination:** by exam.

Readings for discussion seminars:

1. Simons, D. och D. Levin, "Failure to detect changes to people during a real-world interaction", *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, 1998, 5:4, 644-649; Access via University Library.
2. A Hurlbert & Y. Ling, "Biological components of sex differences in color preference", *Current Biology* vol. 17:16 (2007), ss. R623-625, is available through the library, then you can go to Bad Science Blog (<http://www.badsience.net/2007/08/pink-pink-pink-pink-pink-moan/#more-518>) for a criticism of the paper (an example of questionable research)
3. Hansson, Sven-Ove, "Science and Pseudoscience", *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/pseudo-science>
4. Ingthorsson, R. D. 2013. "The Natural vs. the Human Sciences: Myth, Methodology, and Ontology", *Discusiones Filosóficas* 22(1): 13–29: [https://www.academia.edu/3553833/The\\_Natural\\_vs.\\_The\\_Human\\_Sciences\\_Myth\\_Methodology\\_and\\_Ontology](https://www.academia.edu/3553833/The_Natural_vs._The_Human_Sciences_Myth_Methodology_and_Ontology)

Additional literature:

Ashley Crossman (2018). 'Qualitative Research Methods': Available online:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/qualitative-research-methods-3026555>

Alan Chalmers (1987). 'The Theory-dependence of Observations'. Available online:

<https://www.uow.edu.au/~sharonb/STS300/science/shaping/articles/artjudgement2.html>

Wikipedia [online resource], 'Paradigms'. Available online: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paradigm>

Bird, Alexander (2013). 'Thomas Kuhn', in E. N. Zalta (ed.). *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Available online: <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2013/entries/thomas-kuhn/>

William A. Gorton, 'Philosophy of the Social Sciences' in *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Available online: <https://www.iep.utm.edu/soc-sci/>