



# Syllabus

for course in the Second Cycle

**Vetenskaplighet och forskningsetik**  
**Scientific Methods and Research Ethics**

**7.5 Higher Education Credits**  
**7.5 ECTS credits**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Course code:</b>         | FI42N2   |
| <b>Valid from:</b>          | Autumn 2016  |
| <b>Date of approval:</b>    | 2012-03-21   |
| <b>Revised:</b>             | 2016-02-24   |
| <b>Department:</b>          | Department of Philosophy   |
| <b>Main field of study:</b> | Philosophy   |
| <b>Progression level:</b>   | A1N - Second cycle, only has first-cycle courses as entry requirements |

## Official approval

This syllabus was adopted by the Faculty Board of Humanities on 2012-03-21 and revised 2014-04-16 and 2016-02-24.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Degree of Bachelor or equivalent.

## Course structure

| Examination | Course unit                            | Higher Education Credits |
|-------------|--|--------------------------|
| HELA        | Scientific Methods and Research Ethics | 7.5                      |

## Course content

The course consists of a review and critical analysis of basic concepts and issues relating to scientific methods and research ethics. Examples of concepts that will be analysed include knowledge, truth, hypothesis, evidence, meaning, interpretation, objectivity, and social construction. Examples of questions that will be discussed: What is science? Are there fundamental differences in methods between different types of science? Is scientific objectivity possible? Is truth absolute, or does it vary with different theoretical perspectives? What ethical standards are there for scientific research, and how can they be justified?

## Intended learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- give an account of basic concepts and issues relating to scientific methods and research ethics, as well as relate these concepts and issues to their own research and development work;
- analyse and discuss these types of issues independently and critically.

## Instruction

Instruction is given in the form of lectures and seminars. Attendance is mandatory.

## Forms of examination

a) The course is examined on the basis of a take-home examination. For more detailed information about the examination, please refer to the course description.

b) Grades will be set according to a seven-point scale:

A=Excellent

B=Very good

C=Good  
D=Satisfactory  
E=Adequate  
Fx=Inadequate  
F=Totally Inadequate

- c) Students will be informed of the written grading criteria when the course starts.
- d) In order to pass the course, students must receive a grade of E or higher on the examination, complete all mandatory assignments and meet the attendance requirements. Mandatory attendance of 80% applies to all teaching sessions. Under special circumstances, the examiner may, after consulting with the coordinating teacher, grant the student an exemption from the obligation to participate in certain mandatory course elements or complete mandatory assignments. The student can then be assigned a compensatory assignment as determined by the examiner.
- e) At least two examination opportunities should be offered during each course and semester. In addition, at least one opportunity to retake an examination should be given during a semester or year when the course is not provided. Students who receive the grade E or higher may not retake the examination to attain a higher grade. Students who receive the grade Fx or F twice by the same examiner are entitled to have another examiner appointed for the next examination, unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Such requests should be made to the department board.

#### **Transition arrangements**

If this course is discontinued, or its contents substantially altered, students have the right to be examined according to this syllabus once per semester for three further semesters.

#### **Restrictions**

This course may not be included in a degree together with a course, taken in Sweden or elsewhere, of identical or partially similar content.

#### **Required reading**

For up-to-date information about the required reading, please refer to the department website:  
<http://www.philosophy.su.se/>  
The current reading list will be made available at least one month before the course starts.