Linnæus University

Course syllabus

Faculty of Technology
Department of Informatics

5IK514 Vetenskapshistoria och vetenskapsfilosofi, 7,5 högskolepoäng
History, Philosophy and Science of Information Systems, 7.5 credits

Main field of study
Informatics

Subject Group
Informatics/Computer and Systems Sciences

Level of classification
Second Level

Progression
A1F

Date of Ratification
Approved 2014-10-03
Revised 2018-01-26 by Faculty of Technology. Prerequisites, Objectives, Content, Type of Instructions, Examination and literature lists are revised.
The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2018

Prerequisites
30 credits in Informatics advanced level, including Information Systems Methodology 7.5 credits (4IK524) and English B or the equivalent.

Objectives
After completing the course students should be able to:

- thoroughly explain and reflect on the meaning of basic theories, paradigms and concepts used in the field of Informatics / Information Systems
- to describe, analyze and evaluate scientific theories and their applicability in research related issues and/or subject area
- use and reflect on scientific theories and concepts in a practice context, e.g. analysis

Content

The purpose of the course is to acquire basic knowledge about and experience with philosophies of science and paradigms within informatics/information systems research area. With such introduction, the course also aims at providing students practical understanding about the relationship between theories, research paradigms, and different traditions/theories and approaches for doing research in informatics/information systems research area.

The course comprises:

- philosophies of science and paradigms within the area of informatics/information systems
- use of philosophies of science and/or their concepts in practice
- motivated justification of choices with respect to philosophies of science in an area of application
- presentation of scientific articles

Type of Instruction

Teaching consists of lectures, seminars and practice based group work. For group work, each student should inform about their individual effort.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E, Fx or F.

The grade A constitutes the highest grade on the scale and the remaining grades follow in descending order where the grade E is the lowest grade on the scale that will result in a pass. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as fail (i.e. received the grade F).

Assessment of students' performance is made through:
1) oral and written presentations of mandatory assignments
2) participation in seminars
3) written essay including use of theories in analysis of a phenomena

The different assessments are weighted as follows:
1) 20 % (written and oral presentations of mandatory assignments)
2) 20 % (participation in seminars)
3) 60 % (written essay)

Students do not pass the regular examination are given the opportunity to do a re-examination shortly after the regular examination.

Course Evaluation

During the course or in close connection to the course, a course evaluation is to be carried out. The result and analysis of the course evaluation are to be communicated to the students who have taken the course and to the students who are to participate in the course the next time it is offered. The course evaluation is carried out anonymously. The compiled report will be filed at the Faculty.

Credit Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course: 5IK014 History, philosophy and science of Information Systems, 7.5 credits

Other

Grade criteria for the A–F scale are communicated to the student through a special document. The student is to be informed about the grade criteria for the course by the start of the course at the latest.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Required reading

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Informatics compendium and digital material from Linnæus University, about 300 pages, chosen in consultation with the module leader and the examiner.