

**Truth, Construction and Subjectivity: Contemporary Issues in the Theory of Scientific Knowledge, 7.5 credits**

*(Sanning, konstruktion och subjektivitet: Samtida vetenskapsteoretiska problem, 7,5 högskolepoäng)*

Course code:	13F1016
Discipline for doctoral studies:	Other subjects
Academic school:	School of Culture and Education
Research area for doctoral studies:	Not specified 100%
Grades permitted:	G
Education cycle:	Third cycle
Language of instruction:	English
Valid from:	HT 2008 (autumn semester)

**1. Validation**

This course syllabus was validated by the Faculty Board at Södertörn University on 2008-11-10 according to the stipulations in the Higher Education Ordinance.

**2. Entry requirements**

Admitted to doctoral studentship.

**3. Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course, the students shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate good familiarity with some of the most important theories about knowledge and rationality from the 20th century,

Competence and skills

- read, understand and discuss central theoretical texts in and apply these to their own area of research, and
- compare and critically evaluate different ways of viewing the opposition between constructivist and anti-constructivist or objectivist thought traditions.

**4. Course contents, modules and examinations**

The course shows how the scholarly ideal of knowledge and truth leads to critical questions about its own conditions. The course presents and discusses some of the central standpoints within the contemporary debate: phenomenology, hermeneutics, genealogy and discourse analysis, the sociology of knowledge, deconstruction, feminist and post-colonial criticism. The primary aim of the course is to provide students with a specialised introduction to some important authors and standpoints

in the field of critical theory. The course focuses on the opposition between relativism and objectivism, and between constructivism and anti-constructivism. The course is mainly focused on issues relevant to social science, history, and the humanities, but it also touches on the relationship between the human and the natural sciences. It is not primarily a course that teaches scientific methods, instead its purpose is to provide an advanced introduction to how scholarly practices have been theoretically and critically understood and discussed up to the present day. By making the students acquainted with central theoretical positions based on the reading of original texts it gives the ability to take a stand in central debates on scientific theory.

## **5. Course design**

The course comprises lectures and seminars.

## **6. Course assessment**

The course is assessed through two hand-in assignments and an oral presentation in a group.

The grading criteria are distributed prior to the start of a course or module.

## **7. Reading list**

Beslutas vid ämnet enligt där gällande ordning.

## **8. Restrictions on accreditation**

The course may not be accredited as part of a degree if the contents are partly or wholly the same as a course previously taken in Sweden or elsewhere.