

HSL Faculty, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, 8.2.2017	TEMPLATE FOR COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, THE HSL FACULTY Please see explanation to each point below. The template is based on requirements for modules within the UiT quality system.
Name	Bokmål: Vitenskapsteori Nynorsk: English: Theory of Science
Course code and level	SVF-8054
Type of course	The course may be taken as a single course.
Scope of course	7 ECTS
Required / recommended previous knowledge	<p><i>PhD students or holders of a Norwegian Master's Degree of five years or 3+ 2 years (or equivalent) may be admitted. PhD students must upload a document from their university stating that they are registered PhD students.</i></p> <p><i>Holders of a Master's Degree must upload a Master's Diploma with Diploma Supplement / English translation of the diploma. Applicants from listed countries must document proficiency in English. To find out if this applies to you see the following list:</i></p> <p>http://www.nokut.no/Documents/NOKUT/Artikkelbibliotek/Utenlandsk_utdannin_g/GSULista/2016/GSU_list_English_14112016.pdf</p> <p><i>For more information on accepted English proficiency tests and scores, as well as exemptions from the English proficiency tests, please see the following document:</i></p> <p>https://uit.no/Content/254419/PhD_EnglishProficiency_100913.pdf</p>
Course contents	<p>The course consists of two sessions. The first session contains common lectures and supervision within the specialization groups (in humanities, linguistics and social science). The second consists of lectures in specialization groups, student presentation and discussions.</p> <p>The common lectures includes selected classical topics in the theory of science, with a particular relevance for the study of sociocultural phenomena. They concern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Theory of Science? • Explanation: causal explanation, functional explanation and intentional explanation • Explanation and understanding • Social facts • Reason and causes • Methodological individualism versus methodological holism • Humans as biological and socio-cultural beings

	<p>The specialization lectures discuss central questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have scholars defined their object of inquiry in different fields and different eras? • What sorts of methodologies and sources of data are considered appropriate to answering the central questions of the field? • To what extent can humanities/linguistics/social science be considered a science and in which ways do they differ from the hard sciences? • What is the role of the researchers and research ethics in humanities/linguistics/social science?
Learning outcomes	<p>The student will have gained knowledge and understanding of:</p> <p>Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • important and influential issues within general theory of science and theory of sciences specific to the student's field • key conceptual and methodological issues within the theory of science • methodological, epistemological and ontological assumptions that are involved in these issues <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students will be able to identify, reason about and take a stand on relevant issues related to the theory of science in their own research project and other scientific works within the students' subject area. <p>General competence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students will be able to participate in an informed way in the public debate on issues related to the theory of science.
Relevance in the degree program	This course is recommended as part of the compulsory credits in theory of science and research ethics within the instruction component of the PhD programme in the humanities and social sciences.
Teaching and working methods	<p>The instruction involves class attendance and is organized in two seminars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First session: Common part (3 days) • Second session: Specialized parts (2-3 days). The students may choose the specialization corresponding to their research interests (social sciences, humanities or linguistics)
Practice	
Quality assurance of the course	<i>All courses will be evaluated once during the period of the study program. The board of the programme decides which courses will be evaluated by students and teacher each year.</i>
Coursework	The following coursework requirements must be completed and approved in order to take the final examination:

	<p>The PhD candidates must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a reflection paper 1-2 pages (see form) three weeks before the first session. • Submit a preliminary draft of their paper 3-5 pages before the second session (specialization). Every student must present their draft before his/her fellow students and the leader of the group. Every student must give oral feed-back on the draft of another student. • Participation and 80% attendance are obligatory. • The assessment of the work requirements is made on an approved/not approved basis.
Assessment and exam	<p>The examination will consist of:</p> <p>A paper of 3 000-3 750 words. The paper must present a critical reflection and discussion of issues in the theory of science of relevance to the student's doctoral thesis, own research, or discipline.</p> <p>There will be specialist supervision at the end of the first session of the course, to identify the topic of the paper.</p> <p>The syllabus as well as additional literature should be referred to in the paper.</p> <p>The examination is evaluated according to the pass/fail grading system.</p> <p>Students who have failed may register for a re-sit examination.</p>
Retake	<p><i>Retake is offered in in the beginning of the following semester in cases of grade F or Fail. Deferred examination is offered in the beginning of the following semester if the student is unable to take the final exam due to illness or other exceptional circumstances. Registration deadline for retake is January 15 for autumn semester exams and August 15 for spring semester exams.</i></p>
Syllabus	<p>Common part: approximately 400 pages</p> <p>Specialization: approximately 400 pages</p>
Language of instruction and examination	<p>The language of instruction is English, depending on the composition of the student group the teaching could be in Norwegian.</p> <p>The paper can be submitted in English, Norwegian, Danish or Swedish.</p>