



LUND UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Science

SYLLABUS

13 November 2013

Reg. No. N 2013/638

Syllabus for the PhD course Research Ethics in Natural Science, NAMN004

Swedish title: Forskningsetik för naturvetare

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty board for graduate studies 14 November 2013. The course is in the third cycle and amounts to 2 credits.

The course syllabus is formally approved in Swedish. This is a translation.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, participants shall

- demonstrate knowledge of key issues of the theory of science and their relevance for science research
- demonstrate knowledge of key principles and problem areas of research ethics that are relevant to science research.

Skills outcomes:

On completion of the course, participants shall be able to

- constructively analyse their own research and that of others from a theory of science perspective and in such a way that benefits further PhD studies
- analyse their own research and that of others from the perspective of research ethics
- discuss and present issues and problem areas of the theory of science and research ethics that are relevant to science research

Course content

The course is divided into a theory of science and a research ethics component.

The theory of science component deals with the major research strategies and their application in different disciplines with a focus on science. Among the issues discussed are the relationship between observation and reality, and the truth of scientific theories and explanations. Issues of the theory of science that are of immediate relevance to science research are discussed with reference to examples from historical and current research.

The research ethics component deals with theories and concepts of research ethics, such as authorship and academic misconduct (FFP). The discussions will be based on current research ethics research (surveys etc.) and national and international regulations.

Authentic examples will be used to highlight research ethics issues of immediate relevance to the participants' own science research.

Teaching

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars. Each participant is to make an oral presentation (in a group) and write an individual paper on a research ethics issue of relevance to science research.

Assessment

For a pass on the course, participants must have attended all components, made an oral presentation and written an independent paper of 5–10 pages.

Grading scale

Possible grades are Pass and Fail.

Language of instruction

English.