



Stockholm  
University

## Course Report

### Course(s)

- Philosophy of Science I, FIVE10-10914 7.5 hp

### Semester

Autumn 2023

### Course Site Name in Athena

Vetenskapsfilosofi I-HT23 (15710)

### Department

Department of Philosophy

### Published:

2023-12-15

### Number of respondents

35

### Number of answers

10

### Compilation

[Compilation\\_FIVE10\\_HT23.pdf](#)

### Description of changes, and potential decisions already made to make such changes, since the course was last given.

No significant changes have been made since the last course session. The examination proceeded according to the current syllabus with two homework assignments. Most classes were strongly based on in-class discussions around the topics presented.

### The strengths of the course according to the students.

(summary based on quantitative results, text responses from the survey and any other evaluation during the course)

(We note that 10 out of 35 students provided feedback on the course, therefore caution is needed to extrapolate the results of their feedback. This summary is based on quantitative results, free text answers, and any other evaluation during the course)

Among the students who filled out the survey, there was general satisfaction with the course outcome on multiple fronts: relevance for learning the desired content, teaching, and examination. In particular, the students highly appreciated the amount of in-class discussion and the quality of the lectures, together with the competence and enthusiasm of the lecturers.

### **The weaknesses of the course according to the students**

(summary based on quantitative results, text responses from the survey and any other evaluation during the course)

(We note that 10 out of 35 students provided feedback on the course, therefore caution is needed to extrapolate the results of their feedback. This summary is based on quantitative results, free text answers, and any other evaluation during the course)

One student pointed out that in-class spontaneous discussions not only were enough but also better than organized group discussions.

At least one student in the survey mentioned that they were not clear about what was expected in their essay. At the same time, they also mentioned that this was an issue not with the course itself. In any case, the student would have appreciated it if writing resources had been provided together with the assignments.

### **The teachers' analysis of the implementation and results of the course.**

The lecturer/course manager: This course presents a great opportunity for students to have first contact with the main topics surrounding the philosophy of science. Despite the course mostly following up closely on the main textbook by Rosenberg and McIntyre, an extended list of references is provided to the students who would like to dive deeper into any given topic. One major advantage of this course is that attracts students from many different fields, who then bring their own perspectives on the topics being discussed in the classroom, and complement the examples already discussed in the textbook and articles provided.

This course was highly based on prompted in-class discussions. These were great opportunities for exchange between the lecturer and the students themselves. Nonetheless, expectedly some students typically are more keen than others to engage in a public conversation, so I do suggest that group discussions remain part of the teaching methodology for this course, providing the opportunity for everyone to contribute to the overall conversation.

### **Conclusions and suggestions for possible changes to the course and any decisions already made to develop the course.**

The course was evaluated with two homework assignments. With the advent of AI, perhaps these methods will soon become old-fashioned. In particular, given that most of the students are not philosophy majors, and therefore perhaps don't need close experience with writing a philosophical essay (while the philosophy students will be trained on that anyway), it could be interesting to explore different evaluation methods in the future.

### **Other comments**