



# UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

Faculty Board of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts

**KKP333, Knowledge and Practice, 7.5 higher education credits**

**Kunskap och praxis, 7,5 högskolepoäng**

**Avancerad nivå/Second Cycle**

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## 1 Confirmation

The course syllabus was confirmed by the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts on the 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2011, and will apply from the 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2010, until further notice.

*Educational area:* Design 100%

*Major*

Business and Design

*Level*

Advanced level/only prerequisite(s) is/are  
course(s) at a basic level

*Department responsible:* School of Design and Crafts (HDK).

## 2. Position in the educational system

The course is included in the Master programme, Business & Design, as a mandatory course. It is also given as an elective course as well as a single subject course at advanced level.

The course will be given by the Business Administration Department, School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg.

## 3. Entry requirements

Students admitted to the Master programme in Business & Design are guaranteed placement on the course. Remaining applicants are required to have an academic degree of 180 higher education credits, or the equivalent education from an internationally recognized university.

#### 4. Course content

The aim of the course is to create a broad understanding for different approaches, what knowledge is, and how (theoretical and practical) knowledge and science respectively can be acquired. The first part of the course contains a run-through of the most prominent theories in this respect, i.e. positivism and post-positivism and the paradigm debate, empiric interpretative approach, critical theory and post-modernism, Foucault (power and knowledge), Latours Actor Network Theory (ANT) and their importance for a designer.

Besides literature studies the students will perform various exercises where they will learn to apply their knowledge. Students will learn how to identify viewpoints of different scientific theories as well as discuss the extent of various conflicts and difficulties that arise, and how they can be connected to the different approaches of knowledge, what it is based on and its actual task. Towards the end of the course the focus will be even clearer on the knowledge theoretical problems that the subject is faced with. Students will, in a workshop, be confronted with design problems and their scientific base. The reason why design is specific from an epistemological point of view, is one question that will be raised and discussed. The course also deals with research ethical considerations which may arise.

#### 5. Outcomes

After completion of the course the student is expected to be able to ..

1. Knowledge and understanding
  - Be able to describe the meaning of the concepts of positivism,, hermeneutic, Actor Network Theory, post-modernism, social constructivism, and feminism,
  - Be able to describe the way in which and why design and business administration can have different epistemological grounds,
  - Describe at least one line of argumentation as to why, and in which way, design's situation is different in epistemological terms to that of business administration and social science.
  
2. Skills and abilities
  - To independently be able to identify different scientific theoretical arguments and approaches which occur in general academic talk, i.e. in everyday conversation in companies and organizations.
  - To independently be able to identify the scientific theoretical base that various company's discuss, and wish to have more knowledge about, is based,
  - To argue for and against different scientific theoretical approaches in general and especially in relation to design.

### 3. Judgement and approach.

- To independently and creatively formulate different problems related to the relations between companies and design and which have a connection to different scientific theoretical approaches,
- To identify one's own need of further knowledge and to take responsibility for one's own knowledge development within the field,
- Show the ability for reflection of one's own and others attitudes to knowledge theory and the concept of sustainable development and feminism.

## 6. Required reading

See separate literature list.

## 7. Assessment

The course is examined continuously with scheduled lecture, seminars and reviews as well as through submission of reports, the carrying-out of presentations and practical exercises. The student has a right to a change of examiner, if practically possible, after having failed the same examination twice, and such a request should be sent in writing to the department.

## 8. Grading scale

Levels of grades for the course are Fail (F), and Pass (P).

Grades are awarded by the course teacher in consultation with participating seminar teachers and tutors. Students who fail twice have the right to request that another teacher is chosen to evaluate their grade.

## 9. Course evaluation

The course will be evaluated by group discussions together with the course teacher, as well as individually, and in writing after course completion on GUL.

## 10. Additional information

The course will be given on a part-time basis during a period of 10 weeks.

Language of instruction: Swedish and English.