

Term: SPRNG
Lessons per week: 1 x 120 mins
Language: English
Instructor: Kristína Kállay, PhD.
Form of study: lecture+seminar

Course name: Critical and Science Studies

This course aims to provide an overview and critical discussion of core issues at stake in the philosophy and history of science, social epistemology and science literacy (science studies). Briefly tracing the earlier history of the social dimensions of knowledge, the course will examine Enlightenment (Hume, Locke), Marxist as well as contemporary (Foucault, Kuhn, Peirce, Popper, Feyerabend, Lakatos and others) claims, the problem of defining and justifying knowledge, the fraught relationship between race, class, gender and science, indigenous and colonial knowledge, as well as the groundwork of realist and posthumanist perspectives. Finally, we will delve into more contemporary and pressing issues concerning social epistemology (such as expert vs. lay knowledge, science relativism and science denial). Our main two case studies will be global warming and the anti-vaccination movement. These will be situated in their historical (social, political and economic) contexts. Crucially, we will discuss knowledge and expertise in the context of democracy and public policy. Classroom discussion will be based on assigned reading, as well as accompanying audiovisual material.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

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A – excellent: 100-93%
B – very good: 92-84%
C – good: 83-74%
D – satisfactory: 73-63%
E – sufficient: 62-51%
Fx – fail: 50-0%

Passing a course assumes that student was not absent at more than 4 lessons.