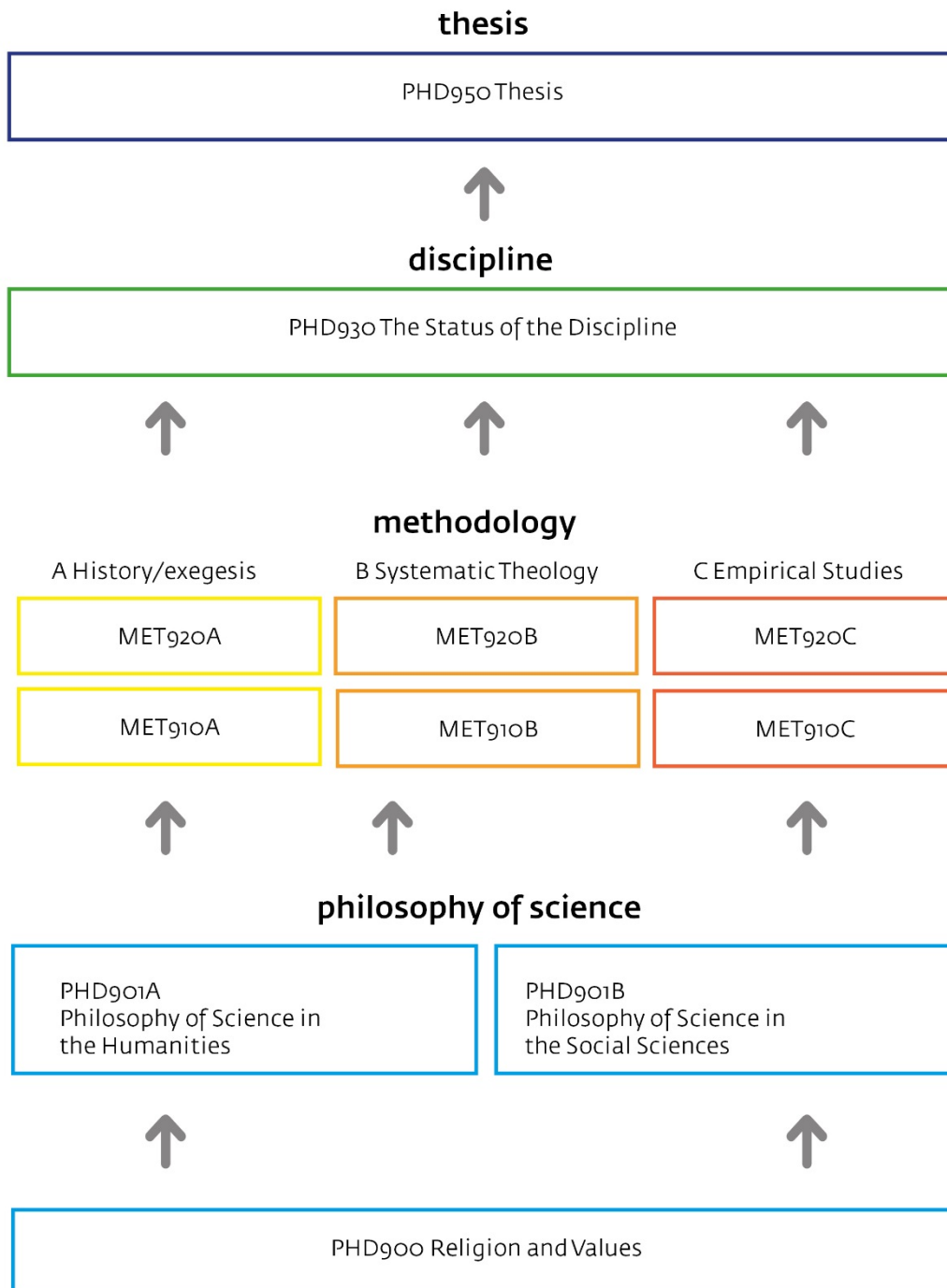


PhD programme

Overview of the study programme, revised by MF's Research Committee, 2014-2017



Programme structure

The PhD programme is to a large extent based on individual and specialized studies, and it also aims at providing the means for academic socialization. The programme is structured around four areas:

- Philosophy of science (10 ECTS)
- Methodology (10 ECTS)
- The Status of the discipline (10 ECTS)
- Thesis (150 ECTS)

The total programme consists of different parts which together allow for a hermeneutical interplay. The Candidate's research and the resulting PhD thesis constitute the major part of the education (150ECTS). The course components support, inform, guide and inspire the individual PhD research.

1 ECTS (= European Credit Transfer System, 'studiepoeng') requires 25-30 hours work from the Candidate.

Philosophy of science (10 ECTS)

Two courses are required on this topic. The fundamental perspectives in these courses place the PhD specialization and the PhD thesis within the context of scholarly work, and the students can develop their understanding and be enabled to document the larger horizon within which the research takes part.

PHD900 (5 ECTS) is mandatory for all students. This course focuses on basic questions in the study of and research in the areas of Religion and Values.

The second course within this area is an elective. PHD901A (5 ECTS) relates to the humanities, while PHD901B (5 ECTS) relates to the social sciences. The student chooses the course relevant for one's own area of research. The electives focus on general theory, philosophy of science, and academic research ethics.

Methodology (10 ECTS)

Two courses are required on this topic: MET910 (5 ECTS) and MET920 (5 ECTS). The courses focus on methodological issues and train the student to discern, choose and employ proper scientific / scholarly methods. Two courses are offered from each of the following fields:

- A. History and exegesis
- B. Systematic Theology
- C. Social Sciences

The student normally takes both courses from either A, B or C, but combinations may be granted by application.

The Status of the discipline (10 ECTS)

This course (PHD930, 10 ECTS) is an open course. The aim of this course is to give a thorough understanding of the present stand and status of the discipline. In order to achieve this, the

student participates in different activities relevant to one's own thesis topic. For instance, the course requires participation in two international conferences or an academic stay abroad. In addition, seminars or full courses from Research Schools may be part of this course.

Thesis (150 ECTS)

The main part of the program is the writing of the thesis. The thesis may consist of a single work or several shorter works. In order to improve the quality and progress of the Candidate's research, research seminars are offered, and the student is required to attend these regularly.

Equivalation

By application, equivalent courses may be fitted in either fully or partially.

Learning outcomes

The PhD program has integrated and implemented the European Qualifications Framework (EQF)/ the National Qualifications Framework (NKR) in the research education. i.e. 3rd cycle/ level 8.

The aims of the PhD programme can be described as follows:

Knowledge. The program shall enable the PhD Candidate

- 1) to be at the forefront of knowledge about his/her academic field, and that he / she masters the field's philosophy of science and relevant methods.
- 2) to evaluate the usefulness and relevant application of different methods and processes in research and scholarly development projects.
- 3) to contribute to the development of new knowledge, new theories, methods, interpretations, and forms of documentation in the field.

Skills. The programme shall enable the PhD Candidate

- 1) to formulate research problems and plan research and scholarly work.
- 2) to carry out scholarly research at a high international level.
- 3) to handle complex academic issues and challenge established knowledge and practice in the field.

General competence. The PhD Candidate shall develop sufficient competence to

- 1) identify new relevant ethical issues and carry out his/her research with scholarly integrity.
- 2) manage and / or understand complex interdisciplinary assignments and processes.
- 3) communicate research and development work through organized Norwegian and international channels.
- 4) participate in the international academic field to which he / she belongs
- 5) assess the needs for, to initiate and practice innovation.

These qualifications are to be developed in and by the individual PhD student in cooperation with supervisors and relevant research groups. It is the task of the supervisors and the research groups to specify and apply the general competencies to their own field and the corresponding area of research within the PhD education. The qualification process is a process of socialization into research. The primary arena for learning is the actual practice of research and the work with the PhD thesis, which includes:

- the design of the project, including formulation of a research question
- providing research material (texts, interviews of informants, statistics, or other data to be chosen and collected)
- assessment and evaluation of the material
- application, testing, and development of relevant methods and relevant theory in the research project
- academic and methodological maturation and development, academic discussions, co-working, co-operation
- presentation and dissemination both in writing and orally

The totality of the qualifications acquired is assessed at the end of the PhD programme. When the coursework is completed, it is the successful defence of the PhD thesis and the trial lecture which indicates that the qualifications are achieved (passed). The PhD Candidate can be regarded then as an “early stage researcher.”

Practical information

All courses are taught by professors. The format consists of lectures, panels of responses and discussion, seminars, and work groups. Some seminars are offered in cooperation with other (national or international) institutions. The literature for each course should normally be read before the seminar starts.

MF's PhD seminars are normally three continuing full days, where the student is expected to write and submit a preliminary short paper and subsequently a course paper. The initial short paper is a descriptive and critical discussion of literature and/or questions related to the course theme. Its point of departure may be a book, an article or several articles, a direction or position in research, an authorship, a concept, or questions posed by the course leaders. Preferably, it may relate connected to the student's PhD thesis. The PhD student may also formulate at least four questions resulting from the work with the essay.

The short paper and the student's questions must be sent by e-mail one week before the course to the responsible course convener, who circulates it to the participants for discussion in the course. In some courses, students may be asked to respond to the presentation of a fellow PhD student or to present their own paper.

After reworking, the final version of the course paper should be sent to the responsible course convener for final approval, usually within three weeks after the course. It will be subject to the exam that term.

Papers are approved by the course convener(s) or by the supervisor(s). The courses are graded passed/failed on the basis of fulfilled course requirements

MF Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo
PhD programme

PHD900 *Religion and Values*

Course leader: Assigned professor, and colleagues
ECTS (credit points): 5
Study programme: PhD programme

GENERAL INFORMATION

The course focusses on 'religion' and 'values' as fields of research and how these fields may relate to each other and / or interact. The course takes selected cases, topics, questions, etc. as its starting point, and seeks to relate such issues to PhD projects of the participants.

Basic topics

- Values, Religion, Religious Studies, and Theology
- The relationship between Religious Studies and Theology
- Contemporary developments in religion and theology
- Normativity
- Normative features inherent in research paradigms
- The role of experience in normative positions
- Issues related to power/authority
- Value theory

Topics and question relevant to the courses

- What is 'Religion' in your PhD project?
- What is 'Values' in your PhD project?
- What are common working procedures, theories, and methods in the fields of Religion and Values?
- Where are the current research frontiers? Which developments do we see?
- In the study 'religion,' and 'values': Does one analyze the topic from the outside (ethic), from the inside (emic), or from both sides? What is your own position as a PhD researcher in this?
- What is the approach and method of Theology as related to the approach and method of Religious Studies? What do they have in common? What is your own position as a researcher in the one or the other or both areas?
- How are strategies of 'conceptualization' and the use of 'theory' present in your project, and what interests and values do they convey? How is 'description' and

'empirical' approaches normative; can one deduce from an 'is' to an 'ought'? Is 'essentialism' necessarily a negative thing? Etc.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND AIM

The aim of this course is to enable the PhD student to reason and argue a position in the above-mentioned areas of Religion and Values and in the disciplines of Theology and Religious Studies. The course will provide resources for reflexion on the following topics:

- What are the distinctive scholarly features of Theology and/or Religious Studies? How do they interplay with other areas of social science and the humanities?
- How do the various disciplines within Theology and Religious Studies relate to each other and the tasks they are intended to solve? Is there a unity within the fields of Theology and Religious Studies respectively? And are there connections between the two?
- What role does my own doctoral thesis play within my own academic discipline and for the academic fields of Theology and/or Religious Studies as such?
- What does my project and Theology and/or Religious Studies as such contribute historically, empirically, practically or dogmatically to society, values, churches and/or the education system?

The PhD students will acquire the following skills:

- Can demonstrate good general knowledge of 'Religion' and 'Values' as fields of research, and as related to each other.
- Have knowledge of definitions and research frontiers within the two areas.
- Can understand and demonstrate how one's own project is located, functions and is C within the areas /disciplines.
- Can describe and discuss how a selection of literature functions within the fields.
- Have the ability to evaluate aspects of phenomenology and phenomenological research.

MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Lectures
- Discussion
- Panels/Work groups

The course is normally offered every second fall term, with seminars of three days' length, approximately 6 hours per day.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attend the course seminar (min. 75 %)
- Submit a draft (1000-1500 words) for a course paper before the course

- Submit min. four questions on the background of the work with the course paper
- Respond to the paper and questions of one fellow PhD student
- Submit a final version of the course paper (2000-2500 words) within three weeks after the course
- Participate in the evaluation of the course, if such evaluation is stipulated in the relevant term

FINAL ASSESSMENT

The final assessment for this course is based on the fulfillment of all course requirements. The course is graded 'passed'/'not passed.'

LITERATURE

A selection of literature on approximately 400 pages will be set up prior to each course, at least two months before. The literature is to be read before the start of the course.

MF Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo
PhD programme

PHD901A *Philosophy of Science in Humanities*

Course leader: Assigned professor, and colleagues
ECTS (credit points): 5
Study programme: PhD programme

GENERAL INFORMATION

PHD901A is a fundamental course component. PHD901A (5 ECTS) addresses Philosophy of science in humanities, logical argumentation, and research ethics and conduct of research. The course focuses on principles of research work, scientific issues, theoretical perspectives and working methods within the humanities. It takes selected cases, topics, questions, etc. as its starting point, and seeks to relate such issues to PhD projects of the participants. The course will encourage the PhD students to explore how this area with its examples can function in relation to their own PhD projects within Religious Studies and Theology.

Furthermore, the course focuses on the history of research and theory of science as the background for the theories and investigations the students incorporate in their PhD research project and thesis, thereby seeking to improve the student's ability to reflect on various approaches in science and research, their relevance, and limitations, strengths and weaknesses. It gives an introduction to selected topics from theory of science relevant for research in humanities, such as

- The concept of science related to the humanities
- The understanding of truth and reality
- Epistemology
- Experience and rationality
- Logic and argumentation
- Normative and contextual conditions for research
- The understanding of history
- Hermeneutics
- Semiotics, deconstruction, and structuralism
- The understanding of sources and the researcher's access to and analysis of sources

Moreover, the course addresses principles and practice of research ethics and conduct of research.

- Knowledge of the *Guidelines for Research ethics General, and in the Social Sciences, Law and the Humanities (Forskningsetiske retningslinjer, 2016)* is pre-required of the participants;

<https://www.etikkom.no/forskningsetiske-retningslinjer/Samfunnsvitenskap-jus-og-humaniora/>

<https://www.etikkom.no/forskningsetiske-retningslinjer/Generelle-forskningsetiske-retningslinjer/>

- Knowledge of the *Guidelines for Internet Research (Forskningsetiske retningslinjer for internettforskning 2015)*
<https://www.etikkom.no/forskningsetiske-retningslinjer/etiske-retningslinjer-for-forskning-pa-internett/>
- Knowledge of the *NSD, Norwegian Social Science Data Services (Norsk Samfunnsvitenskapelig Datatjeneste)* is also pre-required by those who work in the social sciences; cf.
<http://www.nsd.uib.no/> and their English pages at <http://www.nsd.uib.no/nsd/english/index.html>
- Examples from MF's student pages Fronter will be exhibited and discussed.
- Information and teaching on "open access" publishing will be provided, together with research-ethical considerations on its principles.

MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

The course is normally offered every second fall term, with a seminar of three days' length, approximately 6 hours per day. The teaching will be in the form of lectures, panels of responses and discussion, seminars, and work groups.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attend the course seminar (min. 75 %)
- Submit a draft (1000-1500 words) for a course paper before the course
- Submit min. four questions on the background of the work with the course paper
- Respond to the paper and questions of one fellow PhD student
- Submit a final version of the course paper (2000-2500 words) within three weeks after the course
- Participate in the evaluation of the course, if such evaluation is stipulated in the relevant term

FINAL ASSESSMENT

The final assessment for this course is based on the fulfillment of all course requirements. The course is graded "passed"/"not passed."

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT

Knowledge:

After the completion of the course, the student has

- thorough knowledge of topics from the field of theory of science relevant to the study of humanities
- satisfactory general knowledge about contemporary positions and traditions within general theory/philosophy of science and research in the humanities
- sufficient insight into various themes and philosophical positions of importance to research and hermeneutics - such as positivism, historicism, critical rationalism, realism, pragmatism, phenomenology, post-modern criticism of science, constructionism, agency, language, etc.

- good insight into different strategies of research: induction, deduction, and abduction
- good insight into further topics such as the concept of causality and other modes of explanation, and criteria for assessment of conclusions in research - such as generalizations, validity, reliability, plausibility, criteria of truth, and *bias*
- enhanced skills in logical argumentation and presentation, both written and oral
- adequate knowledge and understanding of ethics and conduct of research, and of the rules and regulations in this area set up within the humanities in Norway and internationally

Skills:

The student can

- apply perspectives from the theory of science on their own research work
- relate and apply these themes to his or her own PhD research, thesis, and discipline
- describe and discuss how a selection of literature functions within the fields, as demonstrated in the required paper in the course.
- relate and apply research ethics to his or her own PhD research, thesis, and discipline

LITERATURE

A reading list consisting of approximately 400 pages will be produced each time the course is taught.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attend the course seminar (min. 75 %)
- Submit a draft (1000-1500 words) for a course paper before the course
- Submit min. four questions on the background of the work with the course paper
- Respond to the paper and questions of one fellow PhD student
- Submit a final version of the course paper (2000-2500 words) within three weeks after the course
- Participate in the evaluation of the course, if such evaluation is stipulated in the relevant term

FINAL ASSESSMENT

The final assessment for this course is based on the fulfillment of all course requirements. The course is graded 'passed'/'not passed.'

LITERATURE

A selection of literature on approximately 400 pages will be set up prior to each course, at least two months before. The literature is to be read before the start of the course.

MF Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo
PhD programme

PHD901B *Philosophy of Science in Social Sciences*

Course leader: Assigned professor, and colleagues
ECTS (credit points): 5
Study programme: PhD programme

GENERAL INFORMATION

PHD901B is a fundamental course component. PHD901B (5 ECTS) addresses Philosophy of science in the social sciences, social theories, research ethics and conduct of research. The course focuses on principles of research work, scientific issues, theoretical perspectives and working methods within the social sciences. It takes selected cases, topics, questions, etc. as its starting point, and seeks to relate such issues to PhD projects of the participants. The course will encourage the PhD students to explore how this area with its examples can function in relation to their own PhD projects.

Furthermore, the course focuses on the history of research and theory of science as the background for the theories and investigations the students incorporate in their PhD research project, thereby seeking to improve the student's ability to reflect on various approaches in science and research, their relevance, and limitations, strengths and weaknesses. It gives an introduction to selected topics from theory of science relevant for research in social sciences, such as

- The understanding of academic research in the social sciences
- The understanding of truth and reality
- Epistemology and hermeneutics
- Experience and rationality
- Normative and contextual conditions for research
- Actors and structures
- The understanding of sources and the researcher's access to and analysis of sources

Moreover, the addresses principles and practice of research ethics, and conduct of research.

- Knowledge of the *Guidelines for Research ethics General, and in the Social Sciences, Law and the Humanities (Forskningsetiske retningslinjer, 2016)* is pre-required of the participants; cf. both in English and Norwegian
<https://www.etikkom.no/forskningsetiske-retningslinjer/Samfunnsvitenskap-jus-og-humaniora/>
<https://www.etikkom.no/forskningsetiske-retningslinjer/Generelle-forskningsetiske-retningslinjer/>
- Knowledge of the *Guidelines for Internet Research (Forskningsetiske retningslinjer for internettforskning 2015)*

<https://www.etikkom.no/forskningsetiske-retningslinjer/etiske-retningslinjer-for-forskning-pa-internett/>

- Knowledge of the *NSD, Norwegian Social Science Data Services (Norsk Samfunnsvitenskapelig Datatjeneste)* is also pre-required by those who work in the social sciences; cf. <http://www.nsd.uib.no/>

MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

The course is normally offered every second fall term, with a seminar of three days' length, approximately 6 hours per day. The teaching will be in the form of lectures, panels of responses and discussion, seminars, and work groups.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attend the course seminar (min. 75 %)
- Submit a draft (1000-1500 words) for a course paper before the course
- Submit min. four questions on the background of the work with the course paper
- Respond to the paper and questions of one fellow PhD student
- Submit a final version of the course paper (2000-2500 words) within three weeks after the course
- Participate in the evaluation of the course, if such evaluation is stipulated in the relevant term

FINAL ASSESSMENT

The final assessment for this course is based on the fulfillment of all course requirements. The course is graded "passed"/"not passed."

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT

Knowledge:

After the course, the student should have acquired

- thorough knowledge of topics from the field of theory of science relevant to the study of social sciences
- satisfactory general knowledge of contemporary positions and traditions within general theory/philosophy of science and research in the social sciences
- enhanced insight into various themes and philosophical positions of importance to research and hermeneutics
- good insight into different strategies of research: induction, deduction, and abduction
- good insight into further topics such as the concept of causality and other modes of explanation, and criteria for assessment of conclusions in research - such as generalizations, validity, reliability, plausibility, criteria of truth, and *bias*
- enhanced skills in logical argumentation and presentation, both written and oral
- adequate knowledge and understanding of ethics and conduct of research, and of the rules and regulations in this area set up within the social sciences in Norway and internationally

Skills:

The student can

- apply perspectives from the theory of science on their own research work
- relate and apply these themes to his or her own PhD research, thesis, and discipline
- describe and discuss how a selection of literature functions within the fields, as demonstrated in the required paper in the course.
- relate and apply research ethics to his or her own PhD research, thesis, and discipline

LITERATURE

A reading list consisting of approximately 400 pages will be produced each time the course is taught.

MF Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo
The PhD programme

MET910A *Historical and Exegetical Methods: Text, Materiality, Context*

Course leader: Assigned professor, and colleagues
ECTS (credit points): 5
Study programme: PhD programme

GENERAL INFORMATION

MET910A is an elective course. Its main objective is a broad orientation in current methodological paradigms, their possibilities, and presuppositions within historical and exegetical fields of study, in order to enable the doctoral student to substantiate and argue for her/his own methodological and theoretical thesis design. The course enables the doctoral students to apply theoretical and methodological insights from published research to the creative work with their own PhD projects. The PhD student shall also be able to reflect on issues of the sociology of research connected to the discipline(s).

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND AIM

The course treats common historical and literary/exegetical problems, challenges, methods, working processes and theoretical perspectives. The course enables the student to discuss how these are or can be applied in historical and literary/exegetical PhD projects. Questions of method and theory production connected to historical remains, artifacts, sources, text, contexts, and materiality are central to the course.

The course will provide the PhD Candidate with insights into topics like:

- Historical remains versus historical sources
- Text and non-textual sources
- History, historical contexts
- Historical-critical method
- Theory of editions
- Materiality: manuscripts, art, archaeology
- Text and history
- Collective memory
- Intertextuality
- Digital age

MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Lectures
- Discussion
- Panels/Work groups

Each seminar is normally of three days' length, approximately 6 hours per day.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attend the course seminar (min. 75 %)
- Submit a draft (1000-1500 words) for a course paper before the course
- Submit min. four questions on the background of the work with the course paper
- Respond to the paper and questions of one fellow PhD student
- Submit a final version of the course paper (2000-2500 words) within three weeks after the course
- Participate in the evaluation of the course, if such evaluation is stipulated in the relevant term

FINAL ASSESSMENT

The final assessment for this course is based on the fulfillment of all course requirements. The course is graded 'passed'/'not passed'.

LITERATURE

A selection of literature on approximately 400 pages will be set up prior to each course, at least two months before. Alternatively, the PhD student may set up an individual list in cooperation with the supervisor. The literature is to be read before the start of the course.

MF Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo
The PhD programme

MET920A Historical and Exegetical Methods: Sources, Text-Production, and Transmission

Course leader: Assigned professor, and colleagues
ECTS (credit points): 5
Study programme: PhD programme

GENERAL INFORMATION

MET920A is an elective course. Its main objective is a broad orientation in current methodological paradigms, their possibilities, and presuppositions within historical and exegetical fields of study, in order to enable the doctoral student to substantiate and argue for her/his own methodological and theoretical thesis design. The course enables the doctoral students to apply theoretical and methodological insights from published research to the creative work with their own PhD projects. The PhD student shall also be able to reflect on issues of the sociology of research connected to the disciplines.

The PhD students will have a broader orientation about methodological and theoretical options and possibilities in historical and exegetical research, including their basic presumptions. The student will be enabled to motivate and defend the methodological and theoretical design in her/his own PhD project and thesis. The subject and courses in MET9021 will provide a basis for further probing into methodological and theoretical literature which support as well as challenges her/his own PhD project and thesis. The student will also be challenged to reflect on issues of the theory of science within the field and the discipline.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND AIM

The course treats common historical and literary/exegetical problems, challenges, methods, working processes and theoretical perspectives. The course enables the student to discuss how these are applied and can be applied in historical and literary/exegetical PhD projects. Questions of method and theory production connected to historical remains, text production, and transmission are central to the course.

The course will provide the PhD Candidate with insights in topics like

- Media and manuscript culture
- Authorship

- Translation
- Text production, circulation of texts, publishing
- Textual growth, changes, and transformation
- Canon, canonization process
- Reception/Transmission
- Formation of historical knowledge

MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Lectures
- Discussion
- Panels/Work groups

Each seminar is normally of three days' length, approximately 6 hours per day.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attend the course seminar (min. 75 %)
- Submit a draft (1000-1500 words) for a course paper before the course
- Submit min. four questions on the background of the work with the course paper
- Respond to the paper and questions of one fellow PhD student
- Submit a final version of the course paper (2000-2500 words) within three weeks after the course
- Participate in the evaluation of the course, if such evaluation is stipulated in the relevant term

FINAL ASSESSMENT

The final assessment for this course is based on the fulfillment of all course requirements. The course is graded 'passed'/'not passed'.

LITERATURE

A selection of literature on approximately 400 pages will be set up prior to each course, at least two months before. Alternatively, the PhD student may set up an individual list in cooperation with the supervisor. The literature is to be read before the start of the course.

MF Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo
The PhD programme

MET910B Methods in Systematic Theology: Hermeneutics, Dogmatics, and Ethics

Course leader: Assigned professor, and colleagues
ECTS (credit points): 5
Study programme: PhD programme

GENERAL INFORMATION

MET910B is an elective course. It addresses general issues, questions, and working methods in systematic theology. The main objective is to provide a broad orientation in current methodological paradigms, their possibilities, and presuppositions, in order to enable the doctoral student to substantiate and argue for her/his own methodological and theoretical approach in the thesis. Specifically, the course provides insights into the hermeneutical challenges that face the study of systematic theology, especially within dogmatics and ethics.

The course enables the doctoral student to apply theoretical and methodological insights from published research to the creative work with one's own PhD projects. The PhD student shall also be able to reflect on issues of the sociology of research connected to the disciplines. The course will negotiate proposals for answering questions on working-processes and strategies of the methods within systematic theological research.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND AIM

MET910B provides insight into the specific nature of systematic theological methods within theology, with an emphasis on important hermeneutical issues that are relevant for the study of dogmatics and ethics, and on the philosophical presuppositions for theology as an academic discipline. The hermeneutic inquiry is about understanding and practice, and therefore both dogmatics and ethics as theological disciplines do need hermeneutical reflection to fulfill their tasks. The Christian doctrine is transmitted through centuries, and Christian ethics reflects the wisdom and commitment rooted in the Church as a community facing new challenges in different historical and societal contexts. The study of hermeneutics in dogmatics and ethics, therefore, emphasizes the basic hermeneutical challenges in the two disciplines and gives some examples of how specific dogmatic and ethical themes could provide a horizon of understanding today.

After the course, the PhD students can demonstrate the following skills:

- To demonstrate good knowledge of the history of theological hermeneutics
- To demonstrate knowledge of the need for hermeneutical reflection within dogmatics and ethics

- To understand and demonstrate how hermeneutical perspectives influence systematic theological methods
- To discuss how specific subjects within dogmatics and ethics could be informed by perspectives that arise from hermeneutics

MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Lectures
- Discussion
- Panels/Work groups

The course is normally offered every second spring term, with seminars of three days' length, approximately 6 hours per day.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attend the course seminar (min. 75 %)
- Submit a draft (1000-1500 words) for a course paper before the course
- Submit min. four questions on the background of the work with the course paper
- Respond to the paper and questions of one fellow PhD student
- Submit a final version of the course paper (2000-2500 words) within three weeks after the course
- Participate in the evaluation of the course, if such evaluation is stipulated in the relevant term

FINAL ASSESSMENT

The final assessment for this course is based on the fulfillment of all course requirements. The course is graded 'passed'/'not passed'.

LITERATURE

A selection of literature on approximately 400 pages will be set up prior to each course, at least two months before. Alternatively, the PhD student may set up an individual list in cooperation with the supervisor. The literature is to be read before the start of the course.

MF Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo
The PhD programme

MET920B *Methods in Systematic Theology: Philosophy and Theology*

Course leader: Assigned professor, and colleagues
ECTS (credit points): 5
Study programme: PhD programme

GENERAL INFORMATION

MET920B is an elective course. Its main objective is a broad orientation in current methodological paradigms, their possibilities, and presuppositions, in order to enable the doctoral student to substantiate and argue for her/his own methodological and theoretical approach in the thesis. The course enables the doctoral student to apply theoretical and methodological insights from published research to the creative work with one's own PhD projects. The PhD student shall also be able to reflect on issues of the sociology of research connected to the disciplines.

The course addresses general issues, questions, and working methods in systematic theology, which will be discussed based on selected themes and examples. The course as a whole shall present practical work with PhD projects, such as contents and design, the framing of the research questions into current debate, etc. The course will discuss how such subjects, examples, and findings may be put to work within PhD projects and their research designs.

The course will negotiate proposals for answering questions on working-processes and strategies of the methods within systematic theological research. The course will also treat the relationship between the historical/exegetical/empirical/social science disciplines and the explicitly normative disciplines. It will discuss the relationship between descriptive and normative evaluations, as well as the presuppositions for descriptive and normative conclusions respectively.

This course provides insight into the philosophical dimensions of systematic theology and seeks to help the student to gain a good understanding of how the argumentative structure of systematic theology involves philosophical and methodological choices. These choices are in turn relevant to the way in which systematic theology and philosophy of religion are able to fulfill their task: to present a viable and intellectually valid contemporary version of what Christian theology may look like today.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND AIM

This part of the subject aims at providing resources for reflection about the interrelation between theology and philosophy, and for addressing philosophical and argumentative conditions for theological reasoning. It is divided into two main parts: one which aims at showing how philosophy and theology are joined in the concrete addressing of theological topics and contributes to the shaping of different theological articulations, and one that is more oriented with methodological and argumentative elements necessary for presenting a theological argument.

After the course, the students will demonstrate the following skills:

- To demonstrate good knowledge of how theology and philosophy have interacted throughout the centuries
- To understand and demonstrate how philosophical choices influence systematic theology both in structure and content
- To discuss how specific argumentative strategies are informed by the different choices emerging from different modes of philosophical reasoning.

MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Lectures
- Discussion
- Panels/Work groups

Each seminar is normally of three days' length, approximately 6 hours per day.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attend the course seminar (min. 75 %)
- Submit a draft (1000-1500 words) for a course paper before the course
- Submit min. four questions on the background of the work with the course paper
- Respond to the paper and questions of one fellow PhD student
- Submit a final version of the course paper (2000-2500 words) within three weeks after the course
- Participate in the evaluation of the course, if such evaluation is stipulated in the relevant term

FINAL ASSESSMENT

The final assessment for this course is based on the fulfillment of all course requirements. The course is graded 'passed'/'not passed'.

LITERATURE

A selection of literature on approximately 400 pages will be set up prior to each course, at least two months before. Alternatively, the PhD student may set up an individual list in cooperation with the supervisor. The literature is to be read before the start of the course.

MF Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo
The PhD programme

MET910C *Qualitative and Quantitative Methods: Designing Research and Constituting Data*

Course leader: Assigned professor, and colleagues
ECTS (credit points): 5
Study programme: PhD programme

GENERAL INFORMATION

MET910C is an elective course. Its main objective is a broad orientation in current methodological paradigms, their possibilities, and presuppositions, in order to enable the doctoral student to substantiate and argue for the research design and the methodological and theoretical approaches in the thesis. The course enables the doctoral student to apply theoretical and methodological insights from existing research to the creative work with one's own PhD projects. The PhD student shall also be able to reflect on issues of the sociology of research connected to the disciplines.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND AIM

The course addresses common challenges related to the design of empirical research projects and the process of constituting data and discusses how these can be dealt with in empirical PhD projects. The course focuses on practical work with PhD projects, such as research design, the connection between data and theory, formal matters, research ethics etc. It will provide insights into topics such as research interviews, observation, document studies, ethnography and surveys. It will also sketch possibilities for the combination of qualitative and quantitative methods (mixed method), and discuss comparative methods.

Knowledge

The course will provide the PhD Candidate with

- Good knowledge of empirical/ social science research design and methodology relevant to the PhD research project and its thesis
- Good knowledge of qualitative and quantitative methods for the collecting and analysis of data
- Knowledge of how empirical/ social science methods can be applied and are applied in various studies

Skills

The course will provide the PhD Candidate with

- The ability to apply empirical methods to his or her own PhD research project.
- The ability to discuss issues related to research ethics

MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Lectures
- Discussion
- Panels/Work groups

The course is normally offered every fall term, with seminars of three days' length, approximately 6 hours per day.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attend the course seminar (min. 75 %)
- Submit a draft (1000-1500 words) for a course paper before the course
- Submit a final version of the course paper (2000-2500 words) within three weeks after the course
- Participate in the evaluation of the course, if such evaluation is stipulated in the relevant term

FINAL ASSESSMENT

The final assessment for this course is based on the fulfillment of all course requirements. The course is graded 'passed'/'not passed'.

LITERATURE

A selection of literature on approximately 400 pages will be set up prior to each course, at least two months before. Alternatively, the PhD student may set up an individual list in cooperation with the supervisor. The literature is to be read before the start of the course.

MF Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo
The PhD programme

MET920C *Qualitative and Quantitative Methods: Analysis and Writing*

Course leader: Assigned professor, and colleagues
ECTS (credit points): 5
Study programme: PhD programme

GENERAL INFORMATION

MET920C is an elective course. Its main objective is a broad orientation in different ways of analyzing qualitative and quantitative research material, their potential and limitations, and enable the doctoral student to substantiate and argue for her/his own analytical approach in the thesis.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND AIM

MET920C provides the methodological and theoretical component in the PhD education for qualitative and quantitative empirical/social science projects. The course addresses common challenges related to the analysis of empirical material and the process of writing a research approach based on empirical material and discusses how these are or can be applied in empirical PhD projects in a good way.

Knowledge

The course will provide the PhD Candidate with

- Good knowledge of different qualitative analysis strategies.
- Good knowledge of criteria for quality in empirical research

Skills

The course will provide the PhD Candidate with

- The ability to develop an argument based on the analysis of empirical material
- The ability to discuss the quality of empirical research

MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Lectures
- Discussion
- Panels/Work groups

The course is normally offered every spring term, with seminars of three days' length, approximately 6 hours per day.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attend the course seminar (min. 75 %)
- Submit a draft (1000-1500 words) for a course paper before the course
- Submit a final version of the course paper (2000-2500 words) within three weeks after the course
- Participate in the evaluation of the course, if such evaluation is stipulated in the relevant term

FINAL ASSESSMENT

The final assessment for this course is based on the fulfillment of all course requirements. The course is graded 'passed'/'not passed'.

LITERATURE

A selection of literature on approximately 400 pages will be set up prior to each course, at least two months before. Alternatively, the PhD student may set up an individual list in cooperation with the supervisor. The literature is to be read before the start of the course.

PHD930 *The Status of the discipline*

Course leader:	Assigned professor, and colleagues
ECTS (credit points):	10
Study programme:	PhD programme

GENERAL INFORMATION

PHD930 focusses on research positions and current frontiers, sources, central texts, methods and research history directly related to the Candidate's discipline(s) and topic. Several disciplines may be relevant for cross-disciplinary or interdisciplinary projects. Courses taken in Research Schools will be credited as part of this course.

The course addresses general research questions and discussions of the discipline(s), its central sources, its working methods, its research positions, and its academic history. It also provides an understanding of how to disseminate your research and attend international conferences.

MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Each PhD student will have to follow the necessary amount of courses and activities during the PhD project period.

Objectives, aim, and content

The course provides insight into challenges of the contemporary study of the discipline(s).

After completion of the course, the PhD student has:

- knowledge of basic sources and text of the discipline(s)
- adequate knowledge of the central issues of the theory of research and methodology within the discipline(s)
- insight into the working processes of the discipline(s), contemporary research positions, areas of research, and history of research
- ability to relate and apply these themes to his or her own PhD research and thesis.

The students will demonstrate the following skills:

- good knowledge of the history of the discipline(s) and its research contexts, sources, basic texts, methods, and frontiers, so as to be able to situate one's own project within the current discussion and let it contribute there.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The student must:

1. Conduct dissemination in the discipline(s) at the academic level, by teaching or lecturing at least 4 hours. The lecturing/teaching must be given at university level.
2. Take part in the evaluation of the course, if there is such an evaluation.
3. Either: Attend two international conferences related to the PhD project or discipline (after admission to the PhD program).
Or: Have an academic stay abroad of minimum three weeks.
4. Either: Complete minimum two courses from a relevant Research School
Or: Submit an independent essay or article of approx. 6000 words. This essay or article should be connected both to the research positions or challenges in the discipline(s) in question. The essay or article is to be approved by the PhD supervisor. If the work is published in an academic journal with referees, it is sufficient simply to pass on the bibliographical information.

FINAL ASSESSMENT

The final assessment for this course is based on the fulfillment of the course requirements. The course is graded 'passed'/'not passed'.

LITERATURE

The curriculum of approximately 800 pages can be sources or central readings/texts, or general literature in the disciplines.

MF Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo
The PhD programme

PHD950 *PhD thesis*

Course-leader:	Assigned professor/supervisor, and colleagues
ECTS (credit points):	150
Study programme:	PhD programme

GENERAL INFORMATION

Three years (150 ECTS) is the nominal length of work for PHD950, which results in the PhD thesis. The thesis may consist of a single work or several shorter works. The aim of the seminars in this part is to strengthen the quality of the Candidate's research and to provide encouragement and correction. Participation in research seminars where one's own and other Candidate's work are discussed, and discussions with an assigned supervisor are mandatory.

PREREQUISITES

To submit the PhD thesis, the Candidate must have passed the required courses within the PhD program (30 ECTS).

CONTENTS AND AIMS

The main objective of the PhD thesis research seminars is how to design and present a PhD thesis. The student will also learn to act as respondents and to take part and to contribute to the discussion in general. The research seminars focus on

1. the posing of the PhD research question(s) and its basis in the theory of research
2. strategy and design of the PhD project research
3. writing the introduction and conclusion chapters
4. the argumentation through the PhD project and PhD thesis, leading to its conclusions, including a description of the relationship between descriptive and normative evaluation
5. questions of research ethics

COURSE AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

PhD thesis research seminars are usually scheduled over two days, at the end of April and the beginning of December. Here, papers and PhD projects are discussed in a larger group of PhD students and professors, some of them from other universities. Every second or third year, the seminars are arranged as national PhD thesis research seminars with international lecturers and respondents.

MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

The seminars consist of presentation and responses to papers: The student presents his/her own paper (ca. 15 pages), and two professors will act as main respondents. One fellow PhD student acts as co-respondent and the rest of the seminar group will participate and contribute to the discussion. Supervisor(s) are invited to be present, but should not act as main respondents to students that they are assigned to supervise.

EQUIVALATION OF CREDIT POINTS, ECTS

There is no equivalation of credit points within PHD950. Presentation of one's own research and/or responses to other's work given at another university or university college may be fitted in, by the application.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The PhD student shall:

1. Participate in five PhD research seminars, and be present at least 75 % of the seminar time (valid absence must be documented and cannot exceed 25 %)
2. Present one's own written paper at four PhD research seminars. The paper should normally include a table of contents/plan for the thesis, and be introduced orally
3. Act as a respondent to three other papers
4. Take part in the evaluation of the seminar, if the seminar is subject to evaluation that term

ASSESSMENT

PHD950 is passed on the basis of the submitted and approved thesis, as well as an approved trial lecture and a successful public defence of the thesis.

