

Ph.D. students who want to gain full merit of the course (7,5 ECTS) are required to work with one of the following three cases before, during and after the course:

The Social Responsibility of Scientists

You may choose to write a course essay on the social responsibility of scientists, and discuss questions like: To which extent do scientists have responsibilities towards society? Are scientists responsible for the consequences of their work? And if so, where does the responsibility lie?

Before the course:

Identify a researcher you think have acted socially responsible. Do a literature search on this person, and identify three (max. four) articles or chapters in books that describe this person's social responsible deeds, actions or intentions. The course teachers may be consulted by e-mail during this phase of the project, if you need hints or inspiration.

During the course:

Together with other course participants, who also will write a course report on the social responsibility of scientists, you will prepare a group presentation on this topic. The presentation will include short introductions to the social responsible scientists picked out by the group members (i.e. the identified literature will be introduced), and the insight extracted by the concrete cases should be generalized to a tentative definition / heuristic of what it – according to the presenting group – means to be a socially responsible researcher.

After the course:

Write an individual report on the social responsibility of scientists based on your literature search, the texts in the compendium and course presentations. The report shall be no longer than ten pages long and can be written in Danish or English, as you prefer. The report should be handed in before the 15th of December 2006. You can either hand in a paper version or you can e-mail an electronic version of your report to one of the course teachers. The course teachers will evaluate the report, and you will receive a written comment, by the end of December.

Unforeseen Consequences of Science and Technology (Risks and Uncertainties)

You may choose to write an essay on unforeseen consequences of science and technology, and address questions like: Can science and its applications result in unforeseen (and sometimes undesirable) consequences for the environment or local communities? How can unforeseen consequences of science and its applications be identified? How can scientific communities help to prevent such unforeseen effects?

Before the course:

Identify an example where scientific results and / or its applications have resulted in unforeseen consequences for the environment or local communities. Do a literature search on this incident, and identify three (max. four) articles or chapters in books that describe it. The course teachers may be consulted by e-mail during this phase of the project, if you need hints or inspiration.

During the course:

Together with other course participants, who also will write a course report on the unforeseen consequences of science and technology, you will prepare a group presentation on this topic. The presentation will include short introductions to the events picked out by the group members (i.e. you will introduce the identified literature), and the insight collected by the concrete cases should be generalized to a tentative definition / heuristic of how – according to the presenting group – scientific communities can contribute to preventing unforeseen and undesirable consequences of science and technology from emerging.

After the course:

Write an individual report on unforeseen consequences of science and technology based on your literature search, the texts in the compendium and course presentations. The report shall be no longer than ten pages long and can be written in Danish or English, as you prefer. The report should be handed in before the 15th of December 2006. You can either hand in a paper version or you can e-mail an electronic version of your report to one of the course teachers. The course teachers will evaluate the report, and you will receive a written comment, by the end of December.

Scientific Dishonesty

You have the opportunity to write a course report on “scientific dishonesty”, and hence work with questions like: What does it mean to be scientific dishonest? What decides whether a person is convicted for scientific dishonesty? Is it obvious that scientists have done something wrong when they are convicted scientific dishonest? Why do some scientists conduct fraud, falsify data, or plagiarize? What are the relations between good scientific practise and scientific misconduct?

Before the course:

Identify a researcher who has been accused or convicted of scientific dishonesty. Do a literature search on this person, and identify three (max. four) articles or chapters in books that describes the case against this person. Which deeds, actions or intentions are conceived as dishonest? The course teachers may be consulted by e-mail during this phase of the project, if you need hints or inspiration.

During the course:

Together with other course participants, who also will write a course report on the scientific dishonesty, you will prepare a group presentation on this topic. The presentation will include short introductions to the cases of scientific dishonesty picked out by the group members (i.e. the identified literature will be introduced), and the insight extracted by the concrete cases should be generalized to an understanding of why scientists are tempted to conduct fraud, falsify data, plagiarize etc.

After the course:

Write an individual report on scientific dishonesty based on your literature search, the texts in the compendium and course presentations. The report shall be no longer than ten pages long and can be written in Danish or English, as you prefer. The report should be handed in before the 15th of December 2006. You can either hand in a paper version or you can e-mail an electronic version of your report to one of the course teachers. The course teachers will evaluate the report, and you will receive a written comment, by the end of December.