

Name of university, Name of faculty: Trnava University
Faculty of Philosophy and Arts

INFORMATION SHEET OF THE SUBJECT

Code: YFI062		Name: Hermeneutics and Interpretation	
Cover: Department of Philosophy			
Type of educational activity: Lecture, Seminar		Number of credits: 5	Recommended semester: ST
Scope of educational activity (in hours): Weekly: 1/1 For term of study: LS 30,30			Study grade:
Method of educational activity: Attendance			
Recommended semester	Study programme		
1.year ST	Philosophy (YFILO-Mgr-D) Philosophy (YFILO-Mgr-E)		
Underlie subjects:			
Conditions for passing the course: Method of evaluation: Completion by taking an examination Continuous evaluation: Activity on lectures (25%). Final evaluation: Semestral thesis (75%). Finished: Activity on lectures (25%). Semestral thesis (75%).			
Learning outcomes: To bring up the issue of methods of scientific research. To explain the basic principles of critical thinking. To reflect philosophically the possibilities and conditions of scientific explanation. Educational results: Student will have basic knowldege about scientific methods and nature of science. Recommended optional components of the program: none Research and application: none			
Schedule of subject: 1. The basic definition of science: Definition of scientific rationality (universal, systematic, predictive, explanatory, critical, objective, exact nature of scientific investigation), the basic characteristics of science and scientific thought (scientific method, language, structure, critical thinking), the possibility of classification of the fields of scientific 2. Inductive and deductive method: Problem of the valid inductive argument within natural and social sciences, using the deductive thought processes in formal sciences, necessary character of deductive arguments 3. Idealization and abstraction in scientific study: The process of abstraction, the problem of abstract entities, idealization and way of its use in scientific study, construct and material idealization, the relationship between abstraction and idealization 4. Models and analogies: models and their types (iconic or scalable models, analogous models, or abstract mathematical models), making a modeling and its usage, relationship between models and analogies, and relationship between model and metaphor 5. The explanation in deductive science: Nomologic model of scientific explanation, scientific laws, alternative explanatory models (inductive - statistical, statistical relevance model, causal - mechanical model) 6. The structure of scientific theories scientific theories: The criteria of validity of scientific theories, hypothetico - deductive approach (standard view), model - theoretic approach (semantic concept), the problem of intertheoretic reduction 7. Deductive - hypothetical inference method of inference and the problem of confirmation of scientific hypotheses: deductive - hypothetical inference method (e.g. Boyle's law), relationship between inference and observational prediction, critique of HD method and its alternatives, the problem of qualitative confirmation and criteria of its validity (Hempel's theory) 8. Scientific prediction: The problem of scientific prediction, relationship between prediction and causality, problem of nomologic causal dependence, causality as a transitive relationship (probabilistic concept of causality), theories of transference causality, probabilistic prediction and probability problem 9. The problem of observation: The problem of the nature of fact (data given), the process of observation, the problem of observation in the theory of quantum physics, the relationship between theory and observation and problem incommensurability 10. Scientific experiment: Epistemological nature of scientific experiment, the dual nature of the experimental investigation (method of agreement and method of difference – J.S. Mill's theory), methods of elimination of experimental errors 11. Reduction and reductive method: The problem of unification and unity of science, reduction and elimination, the types of reductions, interlevel reductions			

12. Empirical research in the social sciences:

The specific status of the social sciences, problem of qualitative and quantitative methods, the structure and characteristics of the empirical research, research process, scientific hypothesis, variables in scientific hypothesis, reliability and validity of scientific instruments and their types .

Recommended reading:**Basic reading:**

Schmidt, M., Taliga, M.: Filozofia prírodných vied. Aleph 2013. ISBN 978-80-89491-13-1.

Fajkus, B.: Filosofie a metodologie vědy. Academia, Praha 2005. ISBN 80-200-1304-0.

Popper, K. R.: Logika vědeckého bádání. Oikoymenh, Praha 1997. ISBN 80-86005-45-3.

Kuhn, T. S.: Struktura vědeckých revolucí. Oikoymenh, Praha 1997. ISBN 80-86005-54-2.

Feyerabend, P. K.: Rozprava proti metodě. Aurora, Praha 2001. ISBN 80-7299-047-0.

Further reading:

Rosenberg, A.: Philosophy of Science: A Contemporary Introduction. Routledge, New York 2012 (3. vydanie). ISBN 978-0-415-89176-9.

Psillos, S., Curd, M. (eds.): The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Science. Routledge, New York 2008. ISBN 31: 978-0-415-35403-5.

Newton-Smith, W. H. (ed.): A Companion to the Philosophy of Science. Blackwell Publisher's, Oxford 2000. ISBN 0-631-230203.

Okasha, S.: Philosophy of Science: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford University Press, New York 2002. ISBN 978-0-19-280283-5.

Godfrey-Smith, P.: Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science. University of Chicago Press, London 2003. ISBN 0-226-30063-3.

Ladyman, J.: Understanding Philosophy of Science. Routledge, London 2002. ISBN 0-415-22157-9.

Chalmers, A. F.: What Is This Thing Called Science? Open University Press 1999. ISBN 0-335-20109-1.

Ferenčík, J.: Úvod do metodologie psychologického výskumu. Jak zkoumat lidskou duši. Portál, Praha 2000. ISBN 80-7178-367-6.

Language requirements: Slovak**Notes:****Course evaluation:**

Assessed students in total: 61

A	B	C	D	E	FX
57%	11%	7%	5%	5%	15%

Lecturers:

prof. Mgr. Anton Vydra, PhD., lecturer, examiner, instructor, seminary supervisor

Date of last change: 01.09.2026

Approved by: prof. Mgr. Peter Šajda, PhD.