

Faculty of Psychology – PhD obligatory course

Paper – genre description

Each course participant is required to write a paper where one or more theoretical issues relating to the candidate's own research project is critically discussed.

The doctoral student must select one or more theoretical issues that are relevant for his/her own project, and that require clarification. The paper should focus on either:

- a) Methodology, e.g., issues related to choice of method or design.
- b) "Vitenskapsteori" (including philosophy, history or sociology of science), or ethical and/or social aspects of one's research.
- c) Foundational issues in the science of psychology, education or public health, e.g., addressing theoretical questions or concepts.

The issue ("problemstilling") should be sufficiently delimited to allow treatment within the confines of a paper. Literature from the course syllabus or other relevant literature should be used.

The chosen issue should be discussed in a coherent way. The author should demonstrate awareness of counter-arguments against his or her own argument, position and conclusions. Analytical discussion and academic argumentation are required. A mere listing of arguments is not acceptable.

The choice of issue ("problemstilling") is subject to the approval of one of the topical specialisation teachers.

Examples of papers that have passed are the following:

- A metatheoretical perspective on two major stress theories in cortisol research
- Integrating Buddhist concepts into 21st century psychotherapy: Conceptual and methodological issues
- Undertaking systematic reviews: Methodological and conceptual issues based on a review outline
- Dealing with dilemmas in the PhD-project on destructive leadership
- Reflections concerning methodological and ethical aspects in the study Literacy in the Norwegian prison population
- Validity and missing responses when using self report anthropometric information

The issue ("problemstilling") should be formulated in 3-4 lines and sent for approval to the course coordinator by Friday May 4th, 2012.

The final paper should be 10-15 pages (1.5 line spacing, 12 point Times Roman). The estimated time effort for the paper is 2 weeks. The paper is to be evaluated ("accepted" / "revise and resubmit") by the course coordinator or the appropriate course instructor. The deadline for paper submission is June 1st 2012.