**Course title:** Einführung in die Wissenschaftstheorie  
Introduction to the philosophy of science  
Introduzione alla filosofia della scienza

**Course year:** 1.

**Semester:**

**Course Code:** 15138A

Methodological courses and seminars 1st study year

**Scientific sector:** multidisciplinary

**Lecturer:** Elsen Susanne

**Module:** Yes

**Module Credit Points:** 32

**Total lecturing hours:** 4

**Attendance:** according to the regulations

**Teaching Language:** German, English, Italian

**Propaedeutic course:**

**Course description:** The course aims to introduce and discuss new theoretical and methodological approaches and their implications for research and development in social sciences and humanities in a critical way.

**Specific educational objectives:**

**List of topics covered:**

- Recent positions in philosophy of science, their protagonists and implications for research
  - New Critical Theory
  - Constructivism
  - Grounded theory

- New approaches to research in social sciences and humanities and implications for research

- Transdisciplinary research and development (Schneidewind)

- Research beyond mainstream (Kirby/Read/Greaves)

- Re-Thinking Science, (Nowotny, Scott & Gibbons)

- Postnormal science (Ravetz)

- Community based action research (Bradbury)

**Teaching format:** Frontal, Group discussion, Readings,

**Learning outcomes:** The blocks are integrated and provide the following learning outcomes:

- **Knowledge and understanding:** Knowing and understanding new approaches, their societal background and implications; introduction to epistemology and orientations in theory of science.

- **Applying knowledge and understanding:** Being able to construct research questions- and research settings, that fit with the approaches (f.i. participatory research); analyzing case studies and finding the scientific source of information.
- Making judgments: Critical position to research context and its methodological implications; being able to pick up controversial issues, develop an appropriate understanding of complex topics, which require an interdisciplinary approach.
- Communication skills: Being able to describe different philosophical positions and the reason of new approaches; being able to communicate scientific issues to an enlarged society; being able to communicate to different public.
- Learning skills: Learning to develop an own position on the base of theoretical and methodological knowledge; Learn to learn, developing appropriate learning skills based on the capacity to grow learning competences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment:</th>
<th>oral discussion and reflection on the topics presented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks:</td>
<td>scholarly thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required readings:</td>
<td>Nowotny, Scott, Gibbons: Re-Thinking Science Knowledge in an Age of Uncertainty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplementary readings:</td>
<td>Kirby, greaves &amp; Reid: Experience Reserearch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>