Philosophy of Science (720A04), VT2019, Seminar

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1 Assignments

Please answer the following questions in essay format. Answers are graded on the basis of completeness and depth, not length, but as a rule of thumb 11,5 (+/- 20%) pages per question should be about right. I award up to 8 points per answer. 50% for Pass, 75% for Pass with distinction. Deadline is 24 May at 17:00. Hand-in via Lisam.

1.1 What are the researchers studying?

Notes:

- Do the studied phenomena belong to the domain of the natural or the human sciences?

- Are they objectively measurable or subjectively evaluated?

- Are the methods used well suited to study the phenomena they are interested in?

1.2 Do you find that the articles reveal any particular view about what science is all about?

Notes:

- Empirical/theoretical

- Testing of hypotheses/descriptive/exploratory

- Positivistic/falsificationist/hermeneutic

- Theory-dependent/independent

- Objective measurement/subjective interpretation

1.3 Do the articles reveal the authors views about knowledge?

Notes:

- Data = fact

- Insight

- True justified belief / practically useful ideas/beliefs that are neither true or false

1.4 Are the authors self-critical to their arguments/hypotheses/ conclusions?

Notes:

- Discuss sources of bias/confounders?

- Discuss alternative explanations?

- Are conclusions justified by their results?

1.5 Discuss whether the authors preunderstanding is reflected in the text, or do we have to speculate about it

Notes:

- Do they refer to earlier research

- Do they refer to research that contradict them?

- Do they introduce relevant theories?

- Do they justify the validity of the method?