

Literature for Theory of Science

When preparing for the course in Theory of Science you do not actually have to buy any of the books listed as part of the syllabus. Instead, we use an online compendium in which we have collected extracts from parts of the relevant books as well as articles from academic journals. After the introduction you will have full access to this online repository of texts and a lot of the introduction will also be spent detailing how you are expected to approach the reading assignments during the course. This means that you can safely wait until the introduction before making any decisions with respect to the purchase of books (which, again, is not mandatory but perhaps you would like to own a particular work yourself and read the whole thing).

There may be an exception to this depending on your prior knowledge. This still does not require you to buy a book before the course start, however, you may benefit from doing so. This course is an advanced take on contemporary theory of science. We start with a brief introduction to important concepts and points of discussion in the field and, as part of this, we will mention the development of the scholarly debate leading up to 'the present' including the works of Karl Popper and Thomas Kuhn. Now, if you feel like you would benefit from a refreshing of some of these basic points of departure you could stand to benefit from reading any of the following two books:

Alvesson, Mats & Sköldbberg, Kaj (2017). *Tolkning och reflektion: vetenskapsfilosofi och kvalitativ metod*. Tredje upplagan Lund: Studentlitteratur

Ingemann, Jan Holm. 2016. *Vetenskapsteori För Samhällsvetare*. Malmö: Gleerups Utbildning.

Chalmers, Alan F. 1994. *What Is This Thing Called Science? : An Assessment of the Nature and Status of Science and Its Methods*. Indianapolis: Hackett Pub. Co.

Of these three I would highly recommend Ingemann (2016) as the best introduction to what we will be studying in the present course. That being said, if you prefer a book in English then there is a standard work by Chalmers (1994) that is often referred to. Alvesson and Sköldbberg is a book that we will use extracts from in one of our readings and it contains a rather accessible introduction while still managing to present a broad selection of more advanced topics and readings. Therefore, it could be beneficial to just buy it and start reading the first section of it as a primer for the course.

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