

In the course titled “Social Theory of Knowledge I”, students have the chance to come close to positions claiming that knowledge is a social product. Teaching lectures sequence is as follows.

The “mainstream” perspectives about knowledge beliefs forming are presented in the beginning, reviewing science as a rational and cumulative process. Following this, points of view about knowledge forming that cast doubt to the former, mainstream, positions are critically discussed. The so called “historicist” narratives are analyzed through the work of Hanson, Kuhn, Feyerabend. Bachelard, Duhem, Popper (specially in reference to Kuhn), Lakatos, are some of the scholars that are referred in the course. Students that will choose this course will have the opportunity to constitute a novel picture about knowledge forming procedures.

Lessons are presented as lectures, but students can ask questions during teaching time. Either an essay (under professor’s help and tutelage) concerning the subject matters that are taught or oral exams, are options for the unit’s final grading. Smaller essays, about 1500 words, presented by the students in the classroom, contribute up to 30% of total grading.