Level: master

Course title: History and Philosophy of Physics

Status: obligatory

ECTS: 6

Requirements: none

Learning objectives

Understanding of the historical laws underlying the development of sciences, physics in particular.

Recognition of the philosophical standpoints of scientists and their influence on the interpretation of the scientific results.

Learning outcomes

After taking the course, the student should have developed:

General capabilities: basic knowledge of this field, following the literature, analysis of various influences of historic circumstances to the development of physics.

Subject-specific capabilities: using the examples from the history of physics in teaching; recalling the biographies of great scientists for education purposes; observing the flaws in students reasoning relating them to examples from the history of physics.

Syllabus

Theoretical instruction

Early period of the development of science. Physics between religion and philosophy. The rise of mechanics interacting with astronomy and mathematics. Optics: the conflict between particle and wave concept. Electricity and magnetism: a step from statics towards dynamics.

Thermodynamics and kinetic theory of matter: from phenomenology to sophisticated theory. Particles and fields: development in cycles. Quantum mechanics and relativity: the need for a new approach to understanding of the Nature.

Practical instruction

Two seminars.

Weekly teaching load				Other:
Lectures:	Exercises:	Other forms of	Student research:	
3	1	teaching: 1		