

*One final task, if you don't mind. Could you send me an email completing this sentence:*

*"The most important thing/s I learned during this course is/are ..."*

*- The "thing/s" means that you can list as many as you want, but one is enough.*

*- The "during" means that you did not have to learn it from me or Johanna - the nature of the course is that you were learning from each other and from yourself.*

**Meng:**

The most important thing I learned during this course is to develop critical thinking through asking questions and evaluating my own research from a philosophical perspective.

**Ali:**

The most important thing I learned during this course concerned Harold Kincaid's powerful defence of scientific rationalism. I expected this course to strengthen the status of social constructivism for me, but I experienced the opposite.

**Yian:**

The most important things I learned during this course are the rhetorical and ethical dimensions of social science research as well as an understanding of the positional approach to doing research.

Thank you very much for providing this course!

**Elizabeth:**

The most important thing I learned during this course was the different types of philosophical commitments to consider, such as commitments to entities, to structures and relations, and to explanations.

**Jiancai:**

The most important thing I learned during this course is the way I understand the world is a way of positivism and there are other different philosophy to understand this world. This point is of great significance to me because it makes me reflect why I become a positivist and whether it is right. It also helps me understand others, taking account other philosophy into account.

**Floris:**

The most important thing/s I learned during this course is/are that although I felt I started my research with a strong philosophical positioning, a strong ideology, which I have been vocal about, my positioning actually shifted as a result of the available methods I embraced. In popular current terms, like almost everything, even my philosophical grounding is fluid.

**Outi:**

The most important thing/s I learned during this course is that there are multiple ways and layers to look at the research and I have the freedom to apply my own view of the world. Might sound very trivial but a major step for someone whose thinking, behavior and whole existence has been regulated by the rule and code of conduct of a stiff stock listed company!

**Emilia:**

The most important things I learned during this course is how I can move my own research forward, both by getting insights from listening to others' thought-provoking presentations on both facilitation assignments and their own research projects, as well as by making my own presentations and considering the course topics in relation to my own research. What especially stuck to my mind was the positionality facilitation!

**Toan:**

The most important thing I learned during this course is how social sciences are perceived.

**Claire:**

Thank you for a great course! I enjoyed this course immensely.

The most important thing I learned is probably that the community within the class is extremely helpful to lean on while we develop our thesis. I have gotten a lot of feedback and suggestions that have impacted my thinking, specifically on my research and generally on my views towards the world as a researcher.

(I also learned a lot about concepts I had not known much on before, like scientific realism).

**Martta:**

During this course I have learned:

- how the philosophy of social sciences has developed in time, and certain strong thinkers have been in affecting this development, and how some voices have out ruled others, which is interesting and good to keep in mind
- how truth as a concept is surprisingly often not accepted in science. There can many options: one truth, many truths, or no truth at all
- how I don't have to believe in any of the approaches, but I can pick the most suitable for each study

**Ronja:**

I thought the most important thing I learned during this course was the "trialism" of social sciences which we practiced together during lectures: objectivity, intersubjectivity and subjectivity. Starting off from an objective perspective, not knowing a lot beforehand, than showing subjectivity through own presentations and

intersubjectively listening to others, conversing and facilitating. Through this, I am now able to analyze my own research - research questions and methods, and what shortcomings they (might) have - from a philosophical, and larger perspective.

**Siddhant:**

The most important thing/s I learned during this course is/are ... having Matti as the instructor, he is a person who believes in you, encourages you, inspires you and that is so vital for a student, it creates a very good environment where we feel secure to think and express freely, it is an environment where you feel you can take risks and won't be judged. Onward and upward, to greatness and beyond have become by favourite phrases thanks to Matti's regular invocations! I hope to become a similar instructor, who inspires students to think big , to believe in themselves, to be good human beings.

The other important thing was to listen to the research ideas and comments of my fellow classmates, they are very smart and kind. It has been a pleasure doing the course with them. I wish we did it in – person!

**Karelia:**

The most important thing I learned during this course is the importance of clarifying, formulating, and continuously reflecting on one's ontological, epistemological and philosophical positionings as foundations (or motivations) for one's research methodology and theoretical framing choices.

Thank you for a highly thought-provoking and enjoyable course!

**Mostafa:**

The most important thing that I learned during the course is that each academic research has a hidden foundation on the mind of researcher that perhaps the researcher is not conscious about them,

but this foundation can affect the process and results of the research dramatically. This situation is the reason for considering knowledge as situated.

To sum up, hidden foundations on the researcher's mind would manipulate any research process and its result.

**Marjukka:**

The most important thing I learned during this course was to get deeper understanding for my ontological and epistemological considerations - so far those were just floating above my research - now better connected.

**Mostafa:**

First of all, I want to thank you for your efforts during the course. Personally, this course was somehow different for me because this was my first English language course which seemed difficult at the first, but now, I'm very happy about this experience. 😊

About your question:

The most important thing that I learned during the course is that each academic research has a hidden foundation on the mind of researcher that perhaps the researcher is not conscious about them, but this foundation can affect the process and results of the research dramatically. This situation is the reason for considering knowledge as situated.

To sum up, hidden foundations on the researcher's mind would manipulate any research process and its result.

**Elizaveta:**

I would like to express gratitude to you and your effort for this course.

I truly enjoyed your explanations, sense of humor and course design.

Answer for the final task: The most important thing I learned during this course is the importance of zooming out and defining the point I am looking from.

Lots of thanks and all the best!

**Tejas:**

Thanks for the amazing course. I had a great time during the course.

At the start of the course, I thought the course discussions and presentations are not my cup of tea as a first year PhD student but it kind of helped me to think out of the box and come up with ideas, nurture them and present them in front of the class. This helped me to get some clarity as to what my interests are and the feedback from the class has been a great confidence booster.

I like the Braintrust activity that has been the nature of the course and I got many friends, colleagues, and conversations started thanks to the course.

**Aleksandra:**

Thank you so much for this wonderful course on Philosophy of Social Science!

My key takeaways from this course, probably, would be:

1. The fact that positioning matters a lot during any research project. Moreover, it is expected that different researchers will produce different results on the same topic due to the obvious differences in their background, experiences and motivation.
2. How exciting are the projects of others. By listening to the presentations of my classmates, I got a better understanding of how you could combine your research idea with different philosophical assumptions and research methods. I think, it was possible due to the variety of approaches and our different backgrounds.