Course description
This course is designed to introduce students to methods for engaging in research in philosophy of education. A great deal of educational research aims to examine and illustrate what is happening in education by gathering and analysing data, without focusing on whether what is happening is good or bad. While all educational research should touch on "what should happen" in education, philosophy of education is best equipped to respond to this question through systematically using logic and reflection. This course enables students to engage in clear analytical thinking about educational research, examine the assumptions embedded in all educational research, and make normative arguments based on logic and reflection. Students interested in engaging in effective critiques of educational ideas and practices and aligning educational recommendations with ethical and moral values (such as equality, equity, justice, harmony, diversity, etc.) will particularly benefit from this course.

Course objectives
1. Understand different ways to make logical arguments as well as common flaws involved.
2. Examine the role of normative thinking and making assumptions in educational research and how educational researchers using any methods might engage in normative thinking and making assumptions.
3. Consider competing values in education and education research.
4. Learn what constitutes an effective research project using philosophy of education.

Course learning outcomes	Aligned programme learning outcomes (PLOs)
1. Demonstrate the ability to differentiate between logical and illogical kinds of argumentation.	PLOs 1, 2
2. Recognize how normative thinking and assumptions underlies educational research across methods.	PLOs 1-5
3. Examine competing values and their role in decision making about education and education research.	PLOs 1-5
4. Elaborate what constitutes an effective research project using philosophy of education.	PLOs 1, 2, 4, 5

Course assessment methods
• Logic exercises (2)
• Essay and peer reviews
• Group presentation

Course content and topics
• Introduction to philosophy of education
• Arguments and fallacies
• What are your assumptions as a researcher?
• Using empirical data.
• Organizing a philosophy of education project
• Writing a philosophy of education project
• Arguing a philosophy of education project

Required / recommended readings and online materials
To be advised during classes

Other additional course information
Advanced Research Method (ARM) course