



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

KOGP04, Cognitive Science: Cognition and Communication, 7.5 credits

*Kognitionsvetenskap: Kognition och kommunikation, 7,5
högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2010-08-25 and was last revised on 2017-06-30. The revised syllabus applies from 2017-08-27, autumn semester 2017.

General Information

The course is a component of the Master's programme in Cognitive Science. It is also offered as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Main field of studies

Cognitive Science

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- provide an advanced account of the role of cognition in face-to-face communication and technology supported communication
- provide an advanced account of different cognitive theories on face-to-face communication and technology supported communication
- provide a precise account of the basic concepts and main issues in the research on cognition and communication
- provide an advanced account of how communication can be analysed using cognitive concepts and theories

- provide a basic account of cognitive science methods for the study of communication

Competence and skills

- explain the functions of different forms of cognition and the influence they can have on face-to-face communication on the one hand, and technology supported communication on the other
- reflect on the relevance of different cognitive theories for the study of communication
- discuss and review specific cases of communication using cognitive concepts based on cognitive theories of communication
- analyse and clarify the characteristics of specific instances of communication with regard to the type of context based on e.g. instrumental, material, social or cultural factors, underlying cognitive and pragmatic processes, modality, situation, portability etc.
- identify and propose solutions to cognitive problems in specific instances of communication
- present different proposals on how functionality can be improved by changing cognitive aspects of communication

Judgement and approach

- reflect and take a position on different empirical methods in cognitive studies on communication
- assess proposals on a particular method or operationalisation to examine a given problem as well as the theoretical foundation of the proposal with regard to relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects
- assess how cognitive functions and conditions of an individual influence the communication process in individual cases
- identify and take a position on the consequences of changes to the individual's cognitive functions and conditions for the communication process in individual cases
- discuss and take a position on the ethical aspects of the use and development of knowledge of cognition in relation to communication.

Course content

The course aims to provide students with knowledge of the role of cognition in communication. The course covers cognitive aspects of face-to-face and technology supported communication and examines the link between cognition and communication from different perspectives. It explains how communication is dependent on cognitive functions and abilities such as perception, action, emotion, attention, motivation, interest, expectation, intention, concept formation, categorisation, logical reasoning and inference. It also addresses the link between communication and social cognition and how coordination, interaction, intersubjectivity and cooperation influence communication.

The course focuses on how the view on cognition has changed in recent decades and how this has influenced the view on communication. It provides students with an understanding of how competing cognitive theories of communication relate to each other as well as knowledge of their advantages and disadvantages from a comparative perspective. Individual theories are linked to specific methods, with concrete examples.

Cognitivism explains communication by referring to general mental representations and universal, rational, conscious processes. *Constructivism* emphasises how sensory, motor and neural processes influence categorisation and concept formation and thereby meaning and grammar. *Social constructivism* claims that the individual's social and cultural environment influences categorisation and thus communication. *Interactionism* focuses on how different forms of interaction between individuals and their surroundings create meaning and understanding through physical, bodily, mental and social processes on different time scales.

The course is structured around a number of themes that cover cognitive aspects of e.g.

- communication models
- the context and meaning of an utterance e.g. relevance theory and ecological pragmatics
- categorisation, concept formation and linguistic meaning
- the phenomenon of common ground
- multimodality
- non-verbal communication such as eye gaze and gestures
- social and cultural contextualisation, including the role of technology in communication
- interactionism such as theories of linear adaptation, sensory-motor coordination and dynamic connection and dialogism

Course design

Teaching consists of lectures combined with seminars or group work or both.

Assessment

The assessment of the course is based on an individual written assignment and a written examination or group assignments, or both.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have successfully completed 90 credits in any of the following subjects: anthropology, general linguistics, computer science, informatics, engineering mathematics, neuroscience, biology, psychology, education or theoretical philosophy. Students with qualifications equivalent to 90 credits in cognition research or cognitive science from another higher education institution may also be admitted to the course.

Further information

1. The course is offered at the the Department of Philosophy, Lund University.
2. The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree. For further details, see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.

Subcourses in KOGP04, Cognitive Science: Cognition and Communication

Applies from V10

1001 Cognition och kommunikation, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction