



Faculty of Social Sciences

MKVN06, Media and Communication Studies: Media and Political Engagement, 15 credits

Medie- och kommunikationsvetenskap: Medier och politiskt engagemang, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Communication and Media on 2013-12-03 and was last revised on 2016-05-30. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2016-08-29 and is valid from the autumn semester 2016.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course and as an optional course within the Master of Science Program in Media and Communication Studies.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study

Media and Communication Studies

Specialisation

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

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

On completion of the course the student shall:

- demonstrate an understanding of citizenship, political engagement, and civic cultures within Media and Communication Studies.
- demonstrate knowledge of political participation and connections with media and democracy.
- demonstrate an understanding of the role of media within politics and global public spheres.

Competence and skills

On completion of the course, the student shall independently and with proficiency:

- demonstrate the ability to analyse key theories and concepts associated with political engagement in Media and Communication Studies.
- demonstrate the ability to produce and present research information using various forms of verbal and written communication.

Judgement and approach

On completion of the course, the student shall:

- demonstrate critical evaluation of key theories, problems and issues concerning politics, democracy and citizenship within Media and Communication Studies.
- demonstrate insights in the possibilities and limitations of research in the area of political engagement within Media and Communication Studies.

Course content

Media and political engagement is concerned with the study of democracy, alternative politics and media and new communication technologies.

The course takes the themes of media and global public spheres, citizenship and democracy, civic cultures, social movements and the political web, and critically examines these themes from a multidisciplinary perspective of media and communication and social and cultural theory. For example, the course examines how the political is embedded within culture and society, diverse ways cultural and social practices open up understanding of political engagement and disengagement, and global public spheres and civic cultures.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and workshops. Seminars involve group work related to the course literature. In these seminars the students are expected to present a synthesis and analysis of selected research studied during the course. Workshops involve different approaches to media and political engagement, and to critically analyse the theories and ideas for understanding the political within Media and Communication Studies.

Attendance at seminars and workshops is compulsory unless there are special grounds. An alternative form or date for compulsory components is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed teaching because of activities as student representatives.

Assessment

Assessment is based on the following:

- a written essay related to the key literature and empirical cases as studied during the course. The essay involves evaluation of theories associated with media and political engagement.
- an oral presentation based on course literature for seminars.
- group based practical assignments for seminars and workshops.

- active participation in the lectures, seminars and workshops.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

The grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail.

The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

The oral presentation, group assignments and active participation is awarded with pass or fail, whereas the grade of the written essay determines the overall grade on the course.

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the student must have fulfilled course requirements of at least 150 credits (five terms), including a Bachelor's degree essay in one discipline in the Social Sciences and Humanities, or another equivalent educational background. English course B/6 (advanced) language proficiency shall be demonstrated in one of the following ways:

- IELTS score of 6.5 (with no section less than 5.5);
- TOEFL paper-based score of 4.5 (scale 1-6) in written test and a total score of 575, or an internet-based score of 20 (scale 0-30) and a total score of 90;
- Cambridge/Oxford – Advanced Certificate of Proficiency;
- A Bachelor's degree from a university where English is the only language of instruction, according to the International Handbook of Universities, or
- A pass on English course B/6 (Swedish upper secondary school).

Exemption from Swedish language requirements is granted.