

MKVN10, Media and Communication Studies: Media and Morality, 15 credits

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

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the head of the Department of Communication and Media on 2015-04-27 (STYR 2015/522). The syllabus comes into effect 2015-08-31 and is valid from the autumn semester 2015.

General information

The course can be taken as a freestanding course or included as an elective specialisation course in the Master's programme in Media and Communication Studies (120 credits).

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, students shall

- demonstrate specialised knowledge on key perspectives and theories of the relationship between media and morality
- demonstrate specialised understanding of the impact of current changes in the media landscape on moral and ethical norms and conceptions
- demonstrate specialised understanding of how the media development leads to new moral and ethical issues and to changes in the scope and effect of standard discussions of morality

Competence and skills

On completion of the course, students shall

- demonstrate the ability to independently and critically formulate complex research issues and analyse the present-day media landscape from the perspective of the problems, concepts and theoretical perspectives addressed in the course
- demonstrate the ability to present independent analyses of the moral and ethical implications of current media phenomena in speech and writing
- demonstrate the ability to independently monitor and communicate the development of knowledge in the field of research covered by the course

Judgement and approach

On completion of the course, students shall

- demonstrate awareness of the importance of including consideration of moral and ethical aspects in analyses of present-day media phenomena
- demonstrate the ability to critically assess the moral and ethical dimensions of the development of media and communication studies
- be able to assess the significance of media for the development of ethical and moral norms, values and conceptions within different areas

Course content

The aim of the course is to pursue a critical discussion of the concepts of morals and ethics in the continuous development of the field of media and communication studies. The way in which the media development poses new challenges to morals and ethics and to established social and cultural norms, conceptions and values are key issues. Major emphasis is placed on the significance of media development for the emergence of new moral and ethical issues and for the expansion of the scope and effect of moral conceptions and issues. Among the areas discussed as examples of the expansion of the scope of moral issues, are critical animal studies and studies of cosmopolitanism.

Course design

Teaching consists of lectures, seminars and study visits. Attendance at seminars 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 due to activities as a student representative.

Assessment

The assessment is based on an individual paper, and active participation in seminars, study visits and exercises.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Please note that registration is required for the re-examinations. Within a year of the end of the course, two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered, but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

Grades

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

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 show unacceptable results.

Course components such as active seminar participation, exercises and oral reports are exempted from the grading scale above. The grades awarded for such components are Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass, the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail, the student must show unacceptable results.

Entry requirements

For admission to the course, students must have passed at least 150 credits including a Bachelor's degree project in the social sciences, humanities or the equivalent.

Oral and written proficiency in English corresponding to a Pass in English 6/B from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. The assessment of corresponding qualifications is made with reference to national guidelines. International students are exempted from the general entry requirement of proficiency in Swedish.