Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

RETA30, Rhetoric: Level 1, 30 credits

Retorik: Grundkurs, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2011-06-20 and was last revised on 2025-09-08 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2025/624). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-09-09 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course and can normally be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: Swedish
The language of instruction is Swedish, but some components may be taught in other Scandinavian languages or English.

Main field of study	*Specialisation*
Rhetoric	G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- provide an overview of the emergence and development of Western rhetoric from Antiquity to the present,
- informed by the key concepts of classical and modern rhetoric describe the foundations of rhetorical theory,
- identify different rhetorical genres and relate them to the aim and situation of communication,

Competence and skills

- using rhetorical and linguistic terminology, provide advice and constructive criticism to speakers and writers in different communication situations,
- analyse strategies of persuasion, negotiation and invitation in different types of discourse,
- produce texts and talks in different rhetorical genres and explain how their content, structure and language are adapted to the context and aim,

Judgement and approach

- describe and assess communicative actions from a rhetorical perspective,
- judge and evaluate the importance of rhetoric from a historical and societal perspective,
- identify their need for further knowledge and ongoing learning.

Course content

The course introduces students to the basics of rhetoric as a discipline and art in the past and present. It provides information about rhetorical perspectives and approaches and highlights the ethical dimensions of rhetoric.

Using rhetorical and linguistic concepts, the students practise analysing logical and affective argumentation in speech and writing from different periods and cultures, and presenting their analyses in writing.

The students are enabled to develop knowledge of rhetoric in their own texts and talks, by deliberately adapting the content, structure, language and execution to different rhetorical situations.

The course consists of four modules:

1. Rhetorical perspectives, 7.5 credits,
2. Rhetorical exercises I, 7.5 credits,
3. Rhetorical exercises II, 7.5 credits,
4. Rhetorical analyses, 7.5 credits.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, exercises, group assignments, presentations and seminars. Attendance at exercises, group assignments, presentations and seminars is compulsory unless there are special grounds. Every module consists of 10-15 compulsory components.

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 a student representative.

Assessment

Module 1 is assessed on the basis of three oral presentations, two written assignments and an invigilated exam.

Module 2 is assessed on the basis of three oral presentations, three written assignments, an invigilated exam and a studies logbook.

Module 3 is assessed on the basis of three oral presentations, three written assignments and a studies logbook.

Module 4 is assessed on the basis of three written group assignments, two written individual assignments and an invigilated exam.

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.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass
To be awarded a grade of Pass on the course, the students must have been awarded the grade of Pass on all modules.

Entry requirements

General requirements for university studies in Sweden

Further information

- This course replaces RETA11.
- The modules 2 and 3 are equivalent to the freestanding course RETA14. 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.
- Very good proficiency in Swedish is a good basis for passing the course.
- Module titles in Swedish:
    1. Retoriska perspektiv,
    2. Retoriska övningar I,
    3. Retoriska övningar II,
    4. Retoriska analyser.