



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## RETN02, Rhetoric: The Canons of Rhetoric, 7.5 credits

*Retorik: Kanonisk retorik, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2013-02-20. The syllabus comes into effect 2013-02-20 and is valid from the autumn semester 2013.

### General information

The course is a compulsory component of the MA programme in Language and Linguistics specialising in Rhetoric. It is also offered as a free-standing course and can be included as part of a first- or second-cycle degree.

*Language of instruction:* English

If both the students and the lecturer agree, it may be taught in Swedish. Such an agreement would depend on both the lecturer and the students having a good knowledge of Swedish.

*Main field of study*

Language and Linguistics with specialization in Rhetoric

*Specialisation*

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

### Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall

#### Knowledge and understanding

- be able to account for the notion of a tradition of ideas of rhetoric and its varying functions throughout history
- be able to account specifically for the development of rhetorical theories from the sophists to the Renaissance, including the Romans and the Middle Ages

## Competence and skills

- be able to critically compare different translations of classical texts on rhetoric (canonical texts)
- be able to discuss and critically review different accounts of the history of rhetoric in speech and writing

## Judgement and approach

- be able to critically approach and discuss how and why perspectives from the history of rhetoric can contribute constructively to the general development of rhetorical theory and to practical rhetorical tasks, in academia as well as in professional life.

## Course content

The course involves specialised study of the tradition of ideas of rhetoric based on the knowledge acquired by students in their first-cycle studies. The focus is on study of canonical texts in the subject.

The course primarily deals with classical rhetoric up to and including the Renaissance. Special emphasis is placed on the sophists and Plato's objections to rhetoric, the rhetorical system of Aristotle, Roman rhetoric represented by Cicero and Quintilian and the rhetoric of Western Christianity.

## Course design

Teaching consists of compulsory seminars (approximately 5) addressing specific themes, such as the Swedish translation of Aristotle's Rhetoric, Cicero and Quintilian. The students' individual reading and reading logs are also discussed at the seminars.

## Assessment

The assessment is based on the students' active participation in the compulsory seminars and reading logs (critical and scholarly reflections and assessment of the required reading). In addition to the reading log, students are to produce a popular science or research article on a subject associated with the course content.

## Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass

## Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course students must have passed the Bachelor's degree course RETK03 or the equivalent and English B from upper secondary school or the equivalent.

## Further information

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature and/or the Department of Communication and Media, Lund University.

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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.