



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## RETN05, Rhetoric: Rhetoric and (Popular) Science, 7.5 credits

*Retorik: Retorik och (populär) vetenskap, 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 2014-06-23. The syllabus comes into effect 2014-09-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2014.

### General information

The course is a compulsory component of the Master of Arts (120 credits) programme in Language and Linguistics specialising in Rhetoric. It is also offered as a freestanding course and can be included in a first or second cycle degree.

#### *Language of instruction:*

The course is normally taught in English. It can be taught in Swedish if an agreement is reached by both the teacher and the students. Such an agreement requires that all lecturers and all students are proficient in Swedish.

#### *Main field of study      Specialisation*

Language and  
Linguistics

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

### Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, students shall be able to

#### Knowledge and understanding

- account for historical links between rhetoric and science
- provide an account of how theories of rhetoric in the past as well as the present may affect the way knowledge and science are perceived
- account for similarities and differences between scholarly and popular science writing

- account for the characteristic traits of popular science as well as their merits and shortcomings

### **Competence and skills**

- use awareness of rhetoric and reflection to write popular science texts
- clearly present and discuss in speech and writing different schools of rhetorical theory within the field of rhetoric and science
- analyse scholarly and popular science texts from a rhetorical perspective

### **Judgement and approach**

- argue for an individual view of knowledge based on the discipline of rhetoric
- assess different approaches of the theory of rhetoric to the links between rhetoric and science and critically discuss the implications of these approaches for perceptions of knowledge and science at both a societal and individual level.

### **Course content**

The course provides specialisation in rhetorical theories on rhetoric and science, based on the student's first-cycle studies.

It focuses on rhetorical theory and major emphasis is placed on practical application of theory.

### **Course design**

The teaching consists of (approximately 5) seminars on specific topics, concerned, among other things, with persuasion in scientific disciplines.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, participation is compulsory in seminars. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have missed teaching because of activities as a student representative.

### **Assessment**

The assessment is based on the students' active participation in (5) seminars, composition of a reading journal (critical and scientifically informed reflections on and assessment of the required reading) and submission of a further three written assignments.

### **Grades**

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction  
The grades awarded are Fail, Pass or Pass with Distinction.

### **Entry requirements**

To be admitted to the course, the students must have a Bachelor's degree in the Humanities or Social Sciences and English B or the equivalent.

## **Further information**

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

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.