



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## RETN06, Rhetoric: Rhetoric, Democracy and Participation, 7.5 credits

*Retorik: Retorik, demokrati och deltagande, 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 2014-09-02 and was last revised on 2021-02-15 by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2021-08-30 and is valid from the autumn semester 2021.

### General information

The course is included as an elective component of the Master of Arts 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:* English

<i>Main field of study</i>	<i>Specialisation</i>
Language and Linguistics	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### Learning outcomes

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

#### Knowledge and understanding

- account for the link between rhetoric, democracy, public life and civic participation
- describe contemporary political discourse on the basis of rhetorical theory and educational tradition and with a focus on ethical aspects
- account for political applications of rhetorical theory (and strategies)

## Competence and skills

- to a great extent select and justify modes of communication from the perspectives of rhetorical theory and the aims and conditions of the communicative situation
- analyse and reexamine how different rhetorical applications shape the interplay between participants in public life
- analyse and interpret examples of political communication from a rhetorical perspective focusing on democracy and civic participation
- to a great extent provide constructive feedback and participate actively in a dialogue expanding knowledge

## Judgement and approach

- to a great extent take a critical and reflecting position on different rhetorical manifestations with regard to democracy and civic participation
- take a position on and reexamine the conditions, applications and possible weaknesses of rhetorical theory in public communication

## Course content

The course focuses on the possible and actual roles of rhetoric in contemporary liberal democracies from the perspective of civic participation in political contexts.

Students are provided with general knowledge and understanding of the links between rhetoric, democracy and citizen participation from both theoretical and practical perspectives. Special attention is paid to the conditions of persuasion in relation to rhetorical theories.

The possibilities of rhetorical presentations to serve as a constructive contribution to the development of democracy are examined against the background of current research, taking into account languages and adaptation, insights into usage and style, the links between form and content, source criticism and the presentation itself. Furthermore, the course addresses relational conditions, the role of the receiver, the importance of providing constructive feedback and the ability to do so.

Through presentations, dialogues and discussions, students examine rhetorical issues and perspectives linked to the rhetorician's responsibility for the conditions and outcomes of communication.

## Course design

In addition to lectures and seminars, the student will conduct an empirical case study during the course. Participation in workshops and student-controlled presentations (6 in total) is compulsory, as well as 3 working papers.

## Assessment

The course assessment is based on a written assignment.

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, Pass with distinction

## **Entry requirements**

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

## **Further information**

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature and/or Department of Communication and Media, Lund University.
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.
3. The course is identical to HURD001.