



LUND
UNIVERSITY

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

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2014-09-02 and was valid from 2014-09-02 , autumn semester 2014.

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

Main field of studies

Language and Linguistics

Language and Linguistics

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

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

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Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- account for the historical link between rhetoric and democracy established in ancient Greece
- 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 sender and receiver, and between commitment and lack of interest
- analyse and interpret examples of political communication from a rhetorical perspective focusing on democracy and citizen 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 citizen 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 citizen 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. ? observed consciousness about language context and receiver adaptation, an understanding of language and style, the relationship form?innehåll, source evaluation and the importance of the performance? to be a constructive contribution to the development of the democracy. 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

The course consists of lectures, workshops and project presentations. Participation in workshops and student-controlled presentations is compulsory.

Assessment

The assessment is based on active participation in the seminars and workshops, a project presentation and a written assignment. Absence from more than two of the seminars can be compensated for by written assignments in accordance with the lecturer's instructions.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: 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.

Subcourses in RETN06, Rhetoric: Rhetoric, Democracy and Participation

Applies from H14

1401 Rhetoric, Democracy and Participation, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction