



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## RETN08, Rhetoric: Classical Rhetoric, 7.5 credits

*Retorik: Klassisk retorik, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2021-05-10. The syllabus comes into effect 2021-05-10 and is valid from the spring semester 2022.

### General information

The course is a compulsory 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

The course can be taught in Swedish if an agreement is reached by the lecturers and students. Such an agreement requires that all teachers and 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, the students shall be able to

#### Knowledge and understanding

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

## Competence and skills

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

## Judgement and approach

- 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 the 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). The students' individual reading and reading logs are also discussed at the seminars.

## Assessment

Assessment of the course is partly based on reading logs (critical and scholarly reflections and assessment of the required reading), and partly on a popular science or research article on a subject associated with the course content.

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

For the grade of Pass, participation in all compulsory components is required, as well as at least the grade of Pass on the reading log and article. For the grade of Pass with Distinction, students must also be awarded the grade of Pass with Distinction on both the reading log and article.

## Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have passed first cycle course RETK13, or the equivalent, as well as English B from Swedish 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.
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. This course replaces RETN02.