

RETN10, Rhetoric: Rhetorical Argumentation, 7.5 credits

Retorik: Retorisk argumentation, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2023-03-13 (U 2023/209). The syllabus comes into effect 2023-03-15 and is valid from the autumn semester 2023.

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

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to describe what constitutes rational argumentation and give a general overview of the main theoretical areas of interest within argumentation theory
- be able to give a general overview of argumentation as a field, including its most important methods and their uses
- be able to describe general traits of argument evaluation and fallacies

Competence and skills

- be able to analyse argumentation using an academically recognized method and to present such an analysis in an academically viable form
- be able to evaluate authentic societal argumentation

Judgement and approach

- be able to reflect on the role of quality in argumentation
- be able to discuss the benefits and drawbacks of rationally stringent argumentation on the one hand and rhetorically efficient argumentation on the other
- be able to analyse the ethical implications of persuasive argumentation

Course content

The course provides analytical and theoretical perspectives on different forms of argumentative communication that are currently produced both in mass media and in social media regarding both political and other societal topics. During the course, the student's ability to identify, describe, analyse, and evaluate argumentation in different contexts and genres such as debate articles, political texts, and communication on social media is trained. Theoretical elements are interspersed with practical ones. The student strengthens the ability to describe in a critical way and with relevant terminology argument analytical and rhetorical aspects of verbal argumentation.

Course design

Instruction is mainly carried out in seminar form (approx. five compulsory seminars), as well as in the form of (approx. five) written exercises, supported by lectures. The students analyse argumentation of verbal artifacts. Work is both individual and in small groups.

The University is responsible for ensuring that an alternative date or comparable assignment is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar situation. This also applies to students who miss teaching sessions owing to activities in an elected position as student representative.

Assessment

The course is assessed through a final oral and written presentation of an area of interest selected together with the instructor.

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. For the grade of pass with distinction, students must also be awarded the grade of pass with distinction on the final presentation.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have completed 90 credits (including a bachelor thesis or the equivalent) within one subject 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 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.