



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
English

Syllabus

Language and social media

Course Code:	ENAS05
Course Title:	Language and social media <i>Språk och sociala medier</i>
Credits:	7.5
Degree Level:	Master's level
Progressive Specialisation:	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

Major Field of Study:
ENA (English)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2024-02-12, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2024 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

90 ECTS credits completed, including a degree project of 15 ECTS credits at the G2F level in English or another main field of study in the humanities or social sciences, and upper secondary level English 6, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

1. describe and analyse linguistic traits and practices in social media communication,
2. identify and reflect upon social and technological aspects of linguistic interaction in social media,
3. make a selection of linguistic data based on different social media,
4. formulate relevant research questions and apply suitable methods to study selected aspects of language use in social media, and
5. reflect critically upon ethical problems and questions related to research based on data

from social media.

Content

The course provides an overview of research on language use and language-related practices in social media, with a special focus on qualitative and discourse analytical approaches in applied linguistics. The course treats key themes in research on linguistic practices in social media, and also touches upon practical aspects of how research on language use in social media can be conducted. The concept "social media" is understood in the course as an umbrella term for many types of user-driven, digital, and online-based technologically mediated communication, ranging from e-mail and instant messaging to social network services, content sharing and streaming services, and digital games. The applied linguistics approach means that the course focuses specifically on the role of language use in social media in people's social lives, for example in relation to identity formation, learning, activism, and so on.

Instruction is in the form of seminars. Active participation in seminars is part of the examination in the course, which means that attendance is mandatory.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

All learning outcomes are assessed based on discussions and presentations in seminars. Learning outcomes 3, 4, and 5 are also assessed based on an individual written hand-in assignment.

The examiner may decide that a student who is very close to a passing grade can complete a supplementary assignment to receive a passing grade for a specific examination.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.