



FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

Intercultural studies: Non-violent communication

Interkultur: Icke-våldsam kommunikation

Course code: IKGA08

Credits: 7.5

Education level: First cycle

Progressive specialisation: First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements (G1N)

Main field of study: INT (Intercultural Studies)

Approved by

Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences, 20 August 2026

Effective from

Spring semester 2027

Entry requirements

General entry requirements.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to

1. give a critical account of concepts, theories and intellectual traditions regarding non-violent communication in various cultural contexts,
2. compare and contrast ethical and practical perspectives on non-violent communication and how these are expressed in various cultural contexts, and
3. apply key perspectives related to theories on non-violent communication in intercultural case studies.

Content

The course examines how power imbalances, injustices and conflicts arising from cultural differences can be addressed through non-violent forms of communication. The course is grounded in theoretical ideas and practices related to principled and pragmatic non-violence.

Principled non-violence (ethical or moral non-violence) is based on the conviction that violence is morally wrong in all or most situations.

Pragmatic nonviolence refers to the use of non-violence as a strategic method for achieving goals of social change.

Students discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with principled and pragmatic non-violence in intercultural communication at both the individual and group levels. In the context of intercultural communication, principled non-violence is linked to ethical communication and a universal respect for human dignity. Pragmatic non-violence in intercultural communication refers to strategic communication practices aimed at reducing conflict and achieving cooperation.

The course focuses on examples of non-violent communication in everyday life, including interactions within families, educational institutions, healthcare settings and workplaces, as well as in institutional and governmental politics. The course also examines examples of non-violent communication in conflict situations involving ethnic and religious groups within and between nation states.

The course provides students with both practical approaches (applied tools for everyday reflection and action) and theoretical perspectives (concepts, theories and intellectual traditions relating to non-violence) to support their understanding of non-violent communication in intercultural contexts.

Reading list

See separate document.

Examination

Learning outcomes 1 and 2 are assessed based on individual written assignments and oral seminar discussions.

Learning outcome 3 is assessed based on an individual written assignment.

If a student has been granted study support by Karlstad University due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to offer an adapted examination or allow the student to complete the examination through alternative means.

Grades

One of the grades Pass with 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's and Master's levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.