



Faculty of Economic Sciences, Communication and IT
Media and Communication Studies

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Economic Sciences, Communication and IT on 8 June 2010, and is valid from the Autumn semester of 2010 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: MKAD10

Media and Communication Studies IV, 30 ECTS Credits

(Medie- och kommunikationsvetenskap IV, 30 Swedish credit points)

Degree Level: Master

Progressive Specialisation: A1N (Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements)

Language of Instruction

The language of instruction is English if so required by international students or teachers. If not, instruction is in Swedish.

Prerequisites

Upper secondary school level English B or equivalent, and the course MKGC10 Media and Communication Studies III 30 ECTS cr. or equivalent.

Major Field of Study

MKA (Media and Communication Studies)

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students should be able to demonstrate

- identify and specialise in a media and communication studies theory area,
- assess contemporary media and communication phenomena from the perspectives of the theories, approaches and methods studied in the course,
- illustrate and discuss complex theoretical and methodological issues in a national as well as international perspective (i.e Swedish and international research),
- carry out an independent literature survey in a limited field and develop a complex theoretical perspective,
- assess the merits of different theoretical perspectives in media and communication studies and to classify them in terms of their epistemological approach and relation to a general research tradition,
- understand and critically reflect on the relation between theoretical and methodological traditions in media and communication studies from a theory of science perspective,
- critically review the potential and limitations of science, its role in society, and people's responsibility for how it is used,
- ability to design, perform and present a theoretically and methodologically based study to explore a relevant research problem in the field, and
- evaluate the limitations of the completed project and identify the need for future research.

Content and Form of Instruction

The course includes two modules. Instruction in both modules is in the form of mandatory seminars, which can be virtual or individual supervision.

Module 1: Advanced theory and method in media and communication studies, 15 ECTS cr.

Students develop their theoretical knowledge of a chosen research area in media and communication studies. The scientific basis and methodological approaches of the field are treated. Literature selection is determined by student interests and degree project proposal and is made by student and supervisor in conjunction.

Module 2: Degree Project (15 ECTS cr)

Students further develop their ability to carry out an independent research project in a chosen area and their skills in applying knowledge of theory and methods at Master's level. Students who fail to complete the project satisfactorily in the course period may be offered additional supervision, circumstances permitting, (or to the extent made possible by available resources) at the next course opportunity if they re-register

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Examination is in the form of individual hand-in assignments and a thesis project. The thesis is presented and defended at a seminar. Examination also includes assessment of students' performance as the discussant of a fellow-student's thesis. Seminar participation is mandatory. The number of examination opportunities for the thesis project is limited to five.

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 assessment is based on student views and experiences as reported in written course evaluations and/or group discussions. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of the measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional Information

Students who enrolled before 1 July 2007 will complete their studies in accordance with the requirements of the earlier admission. Upon completion students may request degree and course certificates to be issued under the current ordinance if they meet its requirements.

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.

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