



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Media and Communication Studies

Syllabus

Media and Communication Studies III

Course Code: MKGC10

Course Title: Media and Communication Studies III
Medie- och kommunikationsvetenskap III

Credits: 30

Degree Level: Undergraduate level

Progressive First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry

Specialisation: requirements, contains degree proj. for B.A./B.Sc. (G2E)

Major Field of Study:

MKA (Media and Communication Studies)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2018-12-19, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2019 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

MKGA02 Introduction to Media and Communication Studies (15 ECTS credits), MKGA03 Text, Communication, and Organisation (15 ECTS credits), MKGB03 Research Methods and Independent Project (15 ECTS credits), and MKGB24 Project Management and Production (15 ECTS credits), or equivalent.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students should be able to

- problematise and synthesise the main features of a theoretical field in media and communication studies,
- evaluate and assess the analytical potential of a theoretical field in media and communication studies,
- give an account of and apply central research methods in media and communication studies,

- critically review the research design, theory, and method of academic work in media and communication studies, and
- independently plan, design, conduct, and present theory-based, methodology-driven, and ethically sound research in the field of media and communication studies.

Content

The course includes two modules.

Module 1: Research Survey and Research Design (15 ECTS cr)

The module deals with current research approaches in communication theory. Students develop skills in writing a research survey in a specific specialisation area. Qualitative and quantitative research methods in the field of media and communication studies are treated with an emphasis on data processing, analysis, and the link between theory and method. Ethical issues of relevance to research and development work are treated throughout the module. The module includes practical exercises. Note that instruction may be in English.

Module 2: Degree Project (15 ECTS cr)

In this course module, students develop their ability to carry out an independent research project and write an essay in an area of their choice. Students get the opportunity to improve their theoretical and methodological knowledge skills, including the ability to perform research-based analysis. There is also a component of instruction on essay seminar procedures. Supervision is only provided during the course period. Students who fail to complete the project satisfactorily in the course period may reregister and be offered additional supervision, circumstances permitting. Note that instruction may be in English.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Module 1: Assessment is based on group assignments presented and discussed in mandatory seminars and on individual written hand-in assignments.

Module 2: Assessment is based on an independent thesis, discussed in seminar, and on student performance as a peer reviewer. The number of examinations is limited to five.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course. A grade of Distinction (VG) is awarded to students who have earned this grade for 16 out of 30 credits.

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.