



DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

TIA058 Theories of Communication, 7.5 credits

Kommunikationsteorier, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Applied Information Technology on 2018-06-12 and was last revised on 2020-06-01 to be valid from 2020-08-31, autumn semester of 2020.

Field of education: Science 100%

Department: Department of Applied Information Technology

Position in the educational system

The course is a compulsory course within the programme specified below. It is an introductory course in the second cycle.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master in Communication (N2CMN)

Main field of studies

Communication

Specialization

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

A bachelor's degree of 180 credits, of which a minimum of 90 credits in a major subject.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- describe prominent theoretical approaches used in contemporary communication studies research – and their evolution from the older theoretical traditions;

Competence and skills

- construct a written argument concerning theoretical approaches and concepts in a concise and concrete manner, within a given word limit;
- correctly use citations and references in written texts in line with expectations concerning academic integrity;

Judgement and approach

- critically evaluate the relevance and utility of different theoretical concepts in relation to everyday life and for a specific communication studies project.

Course content

This course provides students with a way into the Master in Communication programme as a whole. It introduces a variety of different theoretical approaches to the study of communication, the application of which will be further developed in subsequent courses. The course will focus on both those theories that typically inform present-day state-of-the-art research in the discipline of communication studies and those older theories whose influence is still more or less directly felt in the discipline. In addition to giving an overview of these grander, 'macro' theories, the course also introduces students to theories relevant to specific domains, or sub-fields, within the discipline of communication studies (e.g. theories of interpersonal communication, theories of communication technology, theories of media and political communication, theories of organizational communication).

Form of teaching

The course education is provided through lectures and workshops. In lectures, the majority of the course content is introduced. In workshops, students are given an opportunity to discuss some of the issues relating to the theories that are covered in the course.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The course is examined through one individual written essay (4.5 credits), a contribution to a seminar discussion (2 credits) and an online test concerning practices of academic integrity (1 credit).

A student who has taken two exams in a course or part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner. The student needs to contact the department for a new examiner, preferably in writing, and this should be

approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years, after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to placements and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

The grading scale for the contribution to a seminar discussion is: Fail (U) or Pass (G).

The grading scale for the online test concerning academic integrity is: Fail (U) or Pass (G).

To get a Pass for the whole course a student should get Pass (G) for the individual written essay, a Pass (G) for the contribution to the seminar discussion and a Pass (G) for the online test on academic integrity. To get a Pass with Distinction (VG) for the whole course a student should get Pass with Distinction (VG) for the individual written essay, a Pass (G) for the contribution to the seminar discussion and a Pass (G) for the online test on academic integrity.

Course evaluation

After completion of the course the students are to be given the possibility of participating in a course evaluation anonymously. The processed results of the course evaluations are to be made accessible to students and also made available to new students at the beginning of the next course. Possible changes brought about as a result of course evaluations are to be described.

Additional information

This course may not be part of a degree combined with **TIA083** *Communication: Communication, activity and organization* or **TIA171** *Communication: Theory of Communication*.