



COURSE SYLLABUS

The Foundations of Journalism, 7.5 credits

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Course Code: LFJK15	Education Cycle: First-cycle level
Confirmed by: Faculty Programme Director Jun 16, 2015	Disciplinary domain: Social sciences
Revised by: Director of Education Jun 4, 2018	Subject group: MK1
Valid From: Autumn 2018	Specialised in: G1F
Version: 3	Main field of study: Media and Communication Science

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

On completion of the course, the student should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- identify the basic ideals and principles of journalism and the function journalism serves in society
- recognize and explain different theoretical perspectives within journalism research

Skills and abilities

- use established tools and methods when producing journalistic material

Judgement and approach

- evaluate publishing decisions from the basis of media law and ethical principles
- critically appraise journalistic products by comparing them to the basic ideals and principles of journalism

Contents

- The societal role of journalism
- The changing media landscape: citizen and participatory journalism
- News values
- Ideals and principles: verification, objectivity, independence and ethics
- Tools and methods: research, source criticism and interviewing
- Basic media law

Course unit 1, 0,0 credits

Type of instruction

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and exercises performed individually or in groups. A digital learning platform is used.

Students who have been admitted to and registered on a course have the right to receive instruction/supervision for the duration of the time period specified for the particular course to

which they were accepted. After that, the right to receive instruction/supervision expires.

The teaching is conducted in English.

Prerequisites

General requirements and 37,5 credits in Media and Communication Science or equivalent. English proficiency is required. Exemption is granted from the requirement in Swedish.

Examination and grades

The course is graded A, B, C, D, E, FX or F.

The grades A, B, C, D and E are all passing grades. For courses with more than one examination, students are given a final grade based on an overall assessment of all examinations included in the course. The final grade of the course is issued only when all course units have been passed.

The examination is based on instruction and course literature. The examination must allow for students to be assessed on an individual basis. Students may not make a second attempt at any examination (or element of examination) already passed in order to receive a higher grade. Further information concerning assessment and grading criteria is provided in a study guide distributed at the beginning of the course.

Students are guaranteed a minimum of three examination occasions, including the regular occasion.

If a student has failed the same examination three times, the student is entitled to request that the next examination is assessed and graded by a new examiner if possible. The decision to accept or reject such a request is made by the vice dean of education. In case the course is terminated or significantly altered, examination according to the present course syllabus shall be offered on at least two occasions in the course of one year after the termination/alteration.

For this course, the examination is based on:

- Two mandatory workshops
- Group presentation
- Individual written assignment
- Individual written examination

You will need an E on every assignment to pass the course. You will need 5 credits with higher grades (A, B), to get higher grades (A, B) on the course as a whole.

Registration of examination:

Name of the Test	Value	Grading
Workshops ¹	1 credit	U/G
Group presentation ¹	1.5 credits	U/G
Individual written assignment	2.5 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F
Individual written examination	2.5 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F

¹ The examination is graded Fail (U) or Pass (G)

Course evaluation

At the end of the course, a course evaluation is performed and commented on by the course coordinator and, if possible, a student/students (course developer/s). The course evaluation, which is published on the relevant learning platform and submitted to the study administration, is to function as a basis for future improvements to the course.

Course literature

Hill, Steve & Lashmar, Paul (2014). *Online Journalism: The Essential Guide*. London: Sage. 290 pages.

Kovach, Bill. & Rosenstiel, Tom. (2014). *The Elements of Journalism*. New York: Three Rivers Press. 332 pages.

Zion, Lawrie. & Craig, David (editors). (2014). *Ethics for Digital Journalists. Emerging Best Practices*. New York/Abingdon: Routledge. 240 pages.

Compendium. 50 pages

Reference Literature

Citing Sources – How to Create Literature References. <http://ju.se/library/search--write/citing-sources---how-to-create-literature-references.html>

Information Material about Anti-Plagiarism at Universities. *The Interactive Anti-Plagiarism Guide – Jönköping University*. <http://pingpong.hj.se/public/courseId/10565/publicPage.do>