



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

1BO520 Biblioteks- och informationsetik I: professionsetik, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Library and Information Ethics I: Professional Ethics, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Library and Information Science

Subject Group

Library and Information Science

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G1F

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2018-02-07

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2018

Prerequisites

1BO405 Introduction to Library and Information Studies, 15 credits, and 1BO410 Libraries, information, society I: the library and information sector, 7.5 credits, or the equivalent.

Objectives

After completing the course, the students should be able to:

- account for current and central ethical guidelines in the field of library science, in Sweden and internationally,
- account for the role of professional ethics in daily work in the library and information sector,
- account for basic theories on ethics and their relation to guidelines for professional ethics,
- problematise the relation between guidelines for professional ethics and daily work at a library,
- analyse different types of ethical dilemma common in the library profession.

Content

This course discusses basic applications of professional ethics in general and in the library sector in particular. This includes both theoretical studies of current ethical guidelines and literature discussing library ethics and professional ethics, and practical studies of ethical dilemmas at libraries. These practical studies are conducted in the form of interviews with librarians and study visits. In addition the general introduction, the course thereby also discusses relevant issues concerning democracy, personal integrity and user influence in practical library work.

Participation in seminars is compulsory.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, text-based seminars and field-study assignments.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

The course is examined through oral and written tests and presentations of compulsory assignments. Supplementary examination of compulsory seminar exercises is carried out in the form of a seminar or a written assignment.

In order to receive the grade of Pass, the student must achieve the objectives. Grading criteria for the grade of Pass with Distinction will be specified when the course starts. For students who do not pass the first examinations, retake examinations are provided in accordance with local regulations at the university.

Course Evaluation

At the end of the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are communicated to the students who have taken the course and the students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time. The evaluation is anonymous. The course evaluation is filed according to departmental regulations.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Bibliotekens internationella manifest (the latest edition). Stockholm: UNESCO/Svensk biblioteksförning. 50 p.

Den femte statsmakten: bibliotekens roll för demokrati, utbildning, tillgänglighet och digitalisering (the latest edition). Stockholm: Kungl. Biblioteket/Nationella biblioteksstrategin. Selection, 100 p.

Gorman, M. (the latest edition) *Our enduring values: librarianship in the 21st century*. Chicago: American Library Association. 160 p.

Hansson, J. (the latest edition) "Professional value and ethical selfregulation in the development of in the development of modern librarianship: the documentality of library ethics". *Journal of Documentation*, Vol. 73(6), 1261–1280. 19 p.

Lankes, D. (the latest edition) *The new librarianship fieldguide*. Cambridge, MT: MIT Press. Selection, 100 p.

Schwarz, E. (the latest edition) *Bibliotekariens praktiska kunskap: om kunskap, etik och yrkesrollen*. Stockholm: Stockholms regionbibliotek. 150 p.

Additional literature chosen in consultation with the teacher, ca 200 pages.