



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 2018-02-07

Revised 2019-06-14 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Revised literature.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2019

Prerequisites

30 credits in Library and information science.

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.

Type of Instruction

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

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. Repeat examination is offered in accordance with Local regulations for courses and examination at the first and second-cycle level at Linnaeus University.

If the university has decided that a student is entitled to special pedagogical support due to a disability, the examiner has the right to give a customised exam or to have the student conduct the exam in an alternative way.

Course Evaluation

During the implementation of the course or in close conjunction with the course, a course evaluation is to be carried out. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are to be promptly presented as feedback to the students who have completed the course. Students who participate during the next course instance receive feedback at the start of the course. The course evaluation is to be carried out anonymously.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Bibliotekens internationella manifest (the latest edition). Stockholm: UNESCO/Svensk biblioteksörening. 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. 240 p.

Hansson, J. (the latest edition). Att göra rätt och vilja väl – om lagstadgade värdegrunder och bibliotekariers professionsetik. I: Hansson, J. & Wisselgren, P. (red.), *Bibliotekarier i teori och praktik: utbildningsperspektiv på en unik profession*. Lund: BTJ Förlag. 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.

Singer, P. (the latest edition). *Praktisk etik*. Stockholm: Thales. Urval, 25 p.

Additional literature chosen in consultation with the teacher, ca 100 pages.