



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

1BV310 Etiska perspektiv på biblioteksarbete, 7.5 credits

Ethical perspectives on library work

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 2022-06-17

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2023

Prerequisites

30 credits of library and information science.

Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to

- describe current central ethical policies in the library field, in Sweden and internationally
- discuss the role of professional ethics in day-to-day professional practice in the library and information sectors
- present and discuss basic ethical theory and its relation to professional ethical policies
- problematise the relation between professional ethical policies and day-to-day work at libraries
- analyse different kinds of ethical dilemma commonly found with the librarian profession.

Content

This course discusses basic professional ethics in general and in the library sector in particular. The course is partly theoretical, pointing up and discussing current ethical policies and literature on library ethics and professional ethics, and partly practical,

investigating actual ethical dilemmas in libraries. The practical part of the course is conducted through interviews with practicing librarians. In addition to discussing fundamental professional ethical issues, the course thus brings up current questions about democracy, personal integrity, and user influence, relative to library work.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, seminars, and group discussions, using digital tools. Lectures and assignments are available on the course learning platform. As a general rule, the language of instruction is Swedish, but English or other Scandinavian languages may also be used.

Examination

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

The course is examined through individual written assignments (assessed with Fail–Pass with Distinction) of 6 credits and an oral seminar assignment of 1.5 credits (assessed with Fail–Pass). In order to receive the grade of Pass with Distinction for the entire course, the student must have received this grade for the individual assignments. In order to receive the grade of Pass, the student must have achieved the course objectives. Grading criteria for the grade of Pass with Distinction will be communicated in writing when the course starts.

Resit 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 adapt the exam or to let the student conduct the exam in an alternative way.

Course Evaluation

During or shortly after the course, a course evaluation should be conducted. The result and analysis of the course evaluation should be promptly communicated to the students who have taken the course. Students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time should be informed of the result at the course introduction. The course evaluation is anonymous.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

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

Blomgren, Roger & Sundén, Johan. (the latest edition) Politisk aktivism inom kulturpolitikens genomförandeled – en spaning och tre observationer. In: Wolmesjö, Malin & Solli, Rolf (eds.), *Framtidens välfärd - hållbar styrning, organisering och ledning*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. 26 pages.

Den femte statsmakten: bibliotekens roll för demokrati, utbildning, tillgänglighet och digitalisering (the latest edition). Stockholm: Kungl. Biblioteket/Nationella biblioteksstrategin. Chapters 3–5, 14 pages.

Gorman, Michael. (the latest edition) *Our enduring values revisited: librarianship in an everchanging world*. Chicago: American Library Association. 240 pages.

Hansson, Joacim. (the latest edition). Att göra rätt och vilja väl – om lagstadgade värdegrunder och bibliotekariers professionsetik. In: Hansson, Joacim. & Wisselgren,

Per. (eds.), *Bibliotekarier i teori och praktik: utbildningsperspektiv på en unik profession*. Lund: BTJ Förlag. 19 pages.

Lankes, David. (the latest edition) *The new librarianship fieldguide*. Cambridge, MT: MIT Press. Chapters 1–9, 8 pages.

Rachels, James & Rachels, Stuart. (the latest edition). *Rätt och fel: introduktion till moralfilosofi*. Lund: Studentlitteratur, 230 pages.

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