



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Media and Journalism

1JO504 Att journalistiskt granska och skildra samhället, 15 högskolepoäng

1JO504 1JO504 Describing Society as a Journalist, 15 credits

Main field of study

Journalism

Subject Group

Journalism

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2020-08-18

Revised 2023-08-22 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2024

Prerequisites

General entry requirements + English 6 and Civics 1b alt. Civics 1a1 +1a2.

Objectives

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

- define the conditions and terms of local, administrative, and legal journalism
- demonstrate a basic understanding of how municipal councils and judiciary and police services are organised
- discuss and analyse the role of local, administrative, and legal journalism in a democratic society from media-theoretical perspectives
- critically process and apply the fundamental legal and ethical principles guiding journalistic work
- explain how the principles of transparency and confidentiality are applied in journalistic work
- use archives, registers, and databases to scrutinise authorities and administrations
- apply journalistic work and production methods to produce journalistic texts in the areas of local, administrative, and legal journalism.

Content

The course introduces societal journalism within the areas of legal, administrative, and local journalism. The course addresses the conditions for and challenges of these types of journalism and problematises their role in society from a number of theoretical perspectives. To do this, the course also includes a review of the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Ordinance.

The course also includes study visits to one or more authorities, such as the municipal council, the police, and the district court to gain insight into how these institutions operate and interact with journalists.

Throughout the course, students also work on their own journalistic pieces by utilising and applying databases, registers, and archives to scrutinise authorities, the legal system, and administration. Other relevant principles that students apply in the course include source criticism and news valuation, as well as a legal and ethical perspective on research and publication.

Type of Instruction

Instruction is delivered in the form of lectures, supervision, exercises, and seminars.

Examination

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

In order to receive a Pass, the student must achieve the course objectives. Grading criteria for a Pass with Distinction are specified in writing when the course starts.

The course is examined through a take-home exam (5 credits), a cumulative assessment of journalistic productions (5 credits), a digital knowledge test (2 credits), and a written submission (3 credits).

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.

In the event that a student with a disability is entitled to special study support, the examiner will decide on adapted or alternative examination arrangements. Resit examination is offered in accordance with Linnaeus University's Local regulations for courses and examination at the first- and second-cycle levels.

Course Evaluation

Course evaluation should be conducted during or shortly after the course. Its results and analysis should be promptly communicated to the students who have taken the course. Students participating in the next course instance should be informed of the results of the previous course evaluation and any improvements that have been made, no later than at the start of the course.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Funcke, Nils. (2019). *Att publicera - Etik och juridik för journalister och publicister*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. ISBN: 9789144123264. pp. 393–403, 443–445. (12 pages). PDF on MyMoodle.

Funcke, Nils. (2019). *Offentlighetsprincipen - Praktik och teori*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. ISBN: 9789144132822. pp. 43–96, 119–206. (140 pages).

Häger, Björn. (2014 or later edition). *Reporter. En grundbok i journalistik*. Stockholm: Norstedts. ISBN: 9789144095868. Chapters 4 and 8 (152 pages).

Jewkes, Yvonne & Linneman, Travis. (2018). *Media and Crime in the U.S.* Thousand Oaks California: Sage Publications Inc. Chapter 2 (48 pages). Available at ProQuest Ebook Central.

Karlsson, Michael & Strömbäck, Jesper (eds.). *Handbok i journalistikforskning*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. ISBN: 9789144124636. pp. 89–98, 103–112. (20 pages).

Nygren, Gunnar & Tenor, Carina. (2020). *Lokal journalistik. Nära nyheter i en global värld*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. ISBN: 9789144123929. (286 pages).

Pollack, Ester. (2002). *En studie i medier och brott*. Stockholm: Stockholms Universitet, Institutionen för journalistik, medier och kommunikation. ISBN: 91-88354-22-9. P. 9–24 (15 pages). PDF on MyMoodle.

Compendium:

Current research articles and book chapters, available on the learning platform MyMoodle one month before the course starts (approximately 100–200 pages). In addition, a collection of links to tips will be posted on the website one month before the course starts.