



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
Department of Media and Journalism

4MK804 Vetenskapsfilosofi och forskningsmetoder i MKV, 15  
högskolepoäng

Philosophy of Science and Research Methods in Media and  
Communication Studies, 15 credits

### **Main field of study**

Media and Communication

### **Subject**

Media and Communication Studies

### **Level**

Second cycle

### **Progression**

A1N

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved 2024-02-29.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2024.

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements for studies at second-cycle level, and specific entry requirements 1-90 credits, of which at least 15 credits constitute an independent project, in media and communication science, journalism, political science or a related subject. English 6 or equivalent.

## Objectives

### **Knowledge and understanding**

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

- demonstrate in-depth knowledge of epistemological perspectives and approaches within media and communication research in the social sciences and humanities

- show an understanding of the relationship between media and communication research questions and the choice of method
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the importance of communicating scientifically
- demonstrate awareness and a deeper understanding of an ethical approach to conducting media and communication research.

### **Competence and skills**

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

- demonstrate an ability to critically discuss different methodological approaches in relation to different epistemological points of view
- demonstrate an advanced ability to identify issues and formulate research questions relevant to the field of media and communication studies
- demonstrate skills in discussing and proposing research designs in relation to scholarly inquiries.

### **Judgement and approach**

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

- demonstrate an independent and critical approach to knowledge production and dissemination within the field of media and communication studies
- demonstrate an ability to independently make research ethical assessments and discuss these in relation to qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis
- discuss the significance of media and communication research from a societal perspective, especially in relation to democracy and human rights.

## **Content**

This course discusses theoretical and methodological perspectives in depth, in terms of different traditions in media and communication studies, focusing on qualitative and quantitative methods and approaches. Examples of methods for data collection and analysis include qualitative and quantitative content analysis and interview studies. In addition to traditional methods in the humanities and social sciences, the course introduces different kinds of digital methods.

## **Type of Instruction**

Instruction is delivered in the form of lectures, seminars, and exercises. The course work is project-based, with a focus on addressing the challenges and complex issues covered in the course.

## **Examination**

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E or F.

The course is examined through oral presentations and written assignments. To achieve the grade E (Pass), the course objectives must be met. Grading criteria will be provided at the start of the course.

Resit examination is offered in accordance with Linnaeus University's Local regulations for courses and examination at the first- and second-cycle levels. 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.

## 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

Benton, T., & Craib, I. (the latest edition). *Philosophy of social science: The philosophical foundations of social thought*. New York : Palgrave Macmillan.

Couldry, N., & Hepp, A. (2016). *The Mediated Construction of Reality*. Cambridge: Polity. 290 pp. ISBN: 9780745681313.

Hacking, I. (1999) *The Social Construction of What?* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. 261 pp. ISBN : 9780674004122

Hansen, A., & Machin, D. (the latest edition). *Media and communication research methods*. Basingstoke Palgrave Macmillan

A selection of articles and book chapters (aprox. 500 pp)