

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Politics and Popular Culture

Politik och populärkultur

7.5 Higher Education

Credits

7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	MK7026
Valid from:	Spring 2015
Date of approval:	2013-08-20
Department	Department of Media Studies
Main field:	Communications Studies/Media and Communication Studies
Specialisation:	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

This syllabus is determined by the Faculty of Humanities, 2014-08-20.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor's degree in Media and Communication Studies (including independent work of at least 15 credits) or equivalent, and English B / English 6 or equivalent.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
POPK	Politics and Popular Culture	7.5

Course content

The course is about political narratives in a globalized world, especially about how contemporary world politics is described in science fiction and fantasy (SF). The key concepts studied - realism, representation, identity, myth and power - are central to theoretical debates in both humanities and social sciences, but are widely used by scholars within political science and media studies.

The course is based on two theoretical traditions: the study of international relations (IR) and narrative theory. Students are expected to make the everyday experience to science by relating these theories to popular cultural texts, such as political satire, science fiction and fantasy.

The aim of the course is to develop different approaches to investigating "obvious" assumptions about the world and making "common sense" into scientific reason. This means that theoretical work is combined with methodological creativity and empirical analysis.

Learning outcomes

After completing the course, the student can

- compare myths about politics in IR and popular culture texts, respectively,
 - demonstrate oral and written ability to understand both the theoretical traditions the course rests on and the associated concepts and epistemological starting points,
 - distinguish between primary and secondary sources, and demonstrate ability to compare different sources ways of conveying knowledge of world politics; and
- apply these insights into independent analysis of popular cultural texts.

Education

Teaching takes place in English in the form of lectures and seminars. All teaching is mandatory.

Forms of examination

The course is examined through a home exam, written assignments and an oral presentation. For more detailed information, please refer to the course description.

b. The grade is based on a goal-related seventy grade scale:

A = Excellent

B = Very good

C = Good

D = Satisfactory E = Sufficient

Fx = Insufficient

F = Absolutely insufficient

c. The written grade criteria are announced to the students at the start of the course.

d. To obtain a final grade of the course, the grade E is required at home exam, assignments, oral presentation and 100% attendance. The principles for aggregating the individual examinations are given in the grade criteria. If special reasons exist, the examiner may grant the student exemption from the obligation to participate in certain compulsory education. The student may then be required to make a written compensatory assignment determined by the examiner.

e. For each course occasion, at least two examinations must be in the relevant semester. At least one examination opportunity shall also be offered on the semester or year of absence. Students with the lowest grade E may not pass a new exam for higher grades. Students who have passed the examinations Fx or F twice in a row by one and the same examiner have the right to have another examiner appointed in the next exam unless special reasons speak against it. The petition shall be made to the institutional board.

f. Completion can be granted if the student is close to the limit for approved, that is, obtained the grade Fx. The assignment must be submitted within two weeks after the completion of the request by the examiner. For approved completion, grades A-E are used.

Interim

Once the syllabus has been canceled, the student is entitled to be examined once per semester according to the current syllabus during a three-term winding-up period.

Limitations

The course may not be included in the degree at the same time as in or outside the country, the course and the approved course, the content of which is in full or in part in accordance with the course. The course overlaps with the course MK7013 as a whole, therefore, can not be included in the same degree.

Misc

The course had earlier course code MK7013.

Required reading

Course list will be published on the institution's website no later than one month before the start of the course.
www.ims.su.se