Stockholm Business School

Stockholm University

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Communication: strategic and cultural perspectives
Kommunikation: strategiska och kulturella perspektiv

7.5 Higher Education Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	PR4321
Valid from:	Autumn 2021
Date of approval:	2019-06-12
Changed:	2021-03-24
Department	Stockholm Business School
Main field:	Advertising and Public Relations
Specialisation:	A1F - Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

This syllabus was approved by the Department Board at Stockholm Business School, Stockholm University, 2019-06-12. Revision was decided on by the Head of Department at Stockholm Business School, Stockholm University 2021-03-24.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor's Degree comprising of 180 higher education credits and English 6, or equivalent.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
4321	Communication: strategic and cultural perspectives	7.5

Course content

Marketing communication is an interaction between various audiences and organizations with the business purpose. However, marketing communication also occurs in a society and it is rooted in values, culture and social categories. Marketing/Strategic communication both influence but are also influenced by cultural forces as well as by foundations of communication science. The communication course introduces a student to the foundational theoretical concepts in communication and the application of these principals to effective marketing communication. The conceptual backgrounds introduced during the course will be used to problematize and critically analyze different phenomena, tendencies and changes in modern society, culture and business.

Learning outcomes

Intended Learning Outcomes

The aim of the course is on the one hand, to advance your knowledge of fundamental models and theories of communication as the means and resources in contemporary culture and business, and the other, to introduce and critically reflect on typical and central empirical manifestations of communication instances as expressions of culture in society at large.

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding
1. describing and comparing theories and central concepts about communication in general and marketing

communication in particular;

2. account for how communication theories can be used as cultural resources for strategic communication between services, organizations and consumers;

Skills and abilities
3. applying different theoretical approaches to communication as to understand its meanings and approaches through different lenses;
4. conceptualising, arguing for and persuading an audience about your choices of theoretical approaches to communication.

Judgement and approach
5. analysing communication as an ideological framework for understanding how companies, consumers and other stakeholders use it to create meaning in markets;

6. critically reflecting upon and evaluating the significance of communication to individual and group interaction and its influences on society at large.

Education

The course consists of a combination of lectures, seminars and workshops that require a significant portion of self-study on the part of students. The lectures provide an overview of the literature connected to studies of material culture while seminars offer an opportunity to discuss together and in small groups.

The course workload is 200 hours equivalent to 7,5 ECTS.

The language of instruction is English.

Please note that all teaching and learning activities - such as lectures, seminars, assignments and assessment tasks – are carried out in English when the language of instruction is English.

Forms of examination

Assessment for the course will be continuous and is carried throughout the different course activities. Each assessment task is weighted in relation to its importance in the overall assessment of the course. The student's results from the different assessment tasks are added up to a total course score that will then translate into the final grade for the course.

Assessment tasks

The course contains the following weighted assessment tasks:

1. Individual home-examination: assesses intended learning outcomes number 1-6, constitutes 60% of total course points.

2. Group project: assesses intended learning outcomes number, 1-6; constitutes 20% of total course points.

3. Individual papers: assesses intended learning outcomes number 1-6; constitutes 10% of total course points.

4. Attendance and participation at the seminars: assesses intended learning outcomes number 1-6; constitutes 10% of total course points.

Grading

After completion of the course, students will receive grades on a scale related to the intended learning outcomes of the course. Passing grades are A, B, C, D and E. Failing grades are Fx and F. A grade Fx can be completed for a grade E.
A course comprises 0–100 course points. Receiving a final passing grade requires at least 50 course points. The scale for the final grade is tied to fixed score intervals: A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; E: 50-59; Fx: 45-49; F: less than 45. The grades correspond to the total score points a student obtains (over a total of 100) for all the weighted assessment tasks combined as part of the continuous assessment for the course.

Each assessment task is awarded 0–100 points. The score for a single assessment task is the number of points multiplied by its percentage weight, and the combined total of score points for all weighted assessment tasks for the course are added up to a final score between 0 and 100 which then translates into a corresponding final

course grade between A and F.

All assessment tasks are assessed on a 100-point scale.

The student is responsible for completing the course's assessment tasks: that a sufficient amount of course points is earned and a passing course grade is obtained. The course's final assessment task can be taken twice: 1) during the course's first scheduled occasion; and, if a passing result (at least 50 course points) was not achieved at the first occasion, 2) at the course's second, scheduled occasion. All other assessment tasks are offered once during the course.
A passing grade (A–E) in the course is obtained when a student has achieved at least 50 course points.

A failing grade (Fx or F) in the course is obtained when a student has not achieved at least 50 course points:

• If 45–49 course points are achieved, a grade Fx is obtained, which can be completed for a grade E within 3 semester weeks after receiving instructions from the course director. If a complementary task is not completed within this time limit, and the course's two final assessment tasks have been accomplished, the course grade Fx is confirmed, implying that the student must re-register for the course and that previously acquired course points are forfeited. Note that first-time registered students have priority access to the seminar groups.

• If less than 45 course points are achieved, a grade F is obtained, implying that the entire course must be retaken and that previously acquired course points are forfeited.

Re-registration implies that:

• first-time registered students have priority access to the course's group registration;

• the final assessment task can be re-assessed without attendance at any of the course's other learning activities and without points from the course's other assessment tasks accredited.

Students receiving a passing grade may not retake the final examination or complete a previously not completed assessment task to attain a higher grade. A passing grade may not be turned into a failing grade upon the request of a student.

Assessment criteria

Assessment criteria are designed as overall assessments, combined qualitative descriptions of what the student is expected to do in order to demonstrate how well the course's learning outcomes are achieved. The assessment criteria are based upon the general abilities as expressed in the degree objectives of the Higher Education Ordinance (appendix 2, System of Qualifications). The list of abilities below is a compilation of these degree objectives. To pass the course (grade E) students should demonstrate general ability to:

• recall, understand and explain course content, the course subject and its scientific basis and methodology;
• apply course content;
• critically analyse course content;
• problematise course content;
• orally and in writing, present and discuss course content;
• assess course content in terms of scientific, social, and ethical aspects;
• meet standards of written presentation and formal accuracy.

The following assessment criteria are used to decide to what extent students have demonstrated these abilities and hence fulfil the course's intended learning outcomes, whereby a grading decision can be made. A higher grade-level presupposes the abilities at lower levels.

A (Excellent)
The student demonstrates ability to evaluate and relate to the content of the course from a comprehensive, critically reflective perspective, as well as to transfer and apply insights in new, meaningful contexts.

B (Very Good)
The student demonstrates ability to, from an overarching and coherent perspective of the field, understand and use concepts to explain how different aspects of the course relate to each other, interconnect and become meaningful.

C (Good)
The student demonstrates ability to discuss the content, tasks and complex issues dealt with in the course

from several well-developed but mainly independent perspectives.

D (Satisfactory)
The student demonstrates satisfactory ability to discuss the content, tasks and complex issues dealt with in the course in a way that, albeit in-depth and elaborate, is decidedly one-dimensional.

E (Sufficient)
The student demonstrates sufficient ability to discuss the content, tasks and complex issues dealt with in the course in a way that is decidedly one-dimensional.

Fx (Fail)
The student's knowledge, skills and abilities display minor flaws, overall or in significant parts.

F (Fail)
The student's knowledge, skills and abilities display major flaws, overall or in significant parts.

Interim

If the course is discontinued, or its contents are substantially altered, students have the right to be examined according to this syllabus once per semester for three further semesters.

Limitations

This course may not be included in a degree together with a course, taken in Sweden or elsewhere, of identical or partially similar content.

Misc

Exemption from an assessment task is granted if the student presents a valid reason and a written certification (such as illness and a medical certificate), whereupon the student may re-sit the assessment task at a later date while maintaining previously acquired course points.

Application for exemption should be submitted to the Director of Studies immediately after, or during planned absences well before, the date when the assessment task is carried out. A granted exemption expires at the end of the immediately following semester.

Required reading

Course literature and other teaching materials are specified on the course's webpage no later than two months prior to the course commences, and in the study guide.