



AK2026 Risk, Media and Controversies 7.5 credits

Risk, media och kontroverser

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, course syllabus.

Establishment

Course syllabus for AK2026 valid from Spring 2010

Grading scale

A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Education cycle

Second cycle

Main field of study

Specific prerequisites

Students applying for the course are supposed to have completed at least two years of university studies (120 credits).

Language of instruction

The language of instruction is specified in the course offering information in the course catalogue.

Intended learning outcomes

The overall aim of this course is to provide the students with an understanding of how risks are created, constructed, understood and discussed in today's society.

Course contents

After completing the course students will have basic knowledge of the areas of risk communication, risk assessment, crisis management and the role of the media in connection with risks and crises in society. A special focus is on controversial, or potentially controversial, applications of new technologies and risks associated with them.

Disposition

Lectures, seminars, and individual work on assignments.

Course literature

- Leiss, W & Powell, D (2004) **Mad cows and mothers milk: The perils of poor risk communication**
- Beck, U (1992) **Risk society**
- Selection of articles

Equipment

None.

Examination

- SEM1 - Seminars, 2.5 credits, grading scale: P, F
- PRO1 - Case Presentation, Written and Oral, 5.0 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Based on recommendation from KTH's coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

If the course is discontinued, students may request to be examined during the following two academic years.

The final task is to present a case, both as a written report and oral presentation. The students will, together with the course leader, select a current case of a potentially controversial technology or a contested scientific claim that has been publicly debated from either their own field of study or another field.

Other requirements for final grade

Oral and written presentation of final task.

Ethical approach

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.