DS1364 Rhetoric - the Art of Persuasion 7.5 credits

Retorik - konsten att övertyga

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

Establishment

Course syllabus for DS1364 valid from Autumn 2012

Grading scale

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

Education cycle

First cycle

Main field of study

Technology

Specific prerequisites

General entrance requirements for university studies, i e completed upper secondary schooling.

Language of instruction

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

Intended learning outcomes

After completing the course students will

- be able to speak to an audience in a well-formulated, structures, and persuasive way.
- be familiar with the most common figures and argumentation strategies of classical rhetoric and be able to use them both in speech and in writing.
- be able to adapt the content, structure, and register of spoken and written texts to their type, purpose, and recipients.
- be able to analyse both classic and modern texts, written and spoken, in terms of their rhetoric and argumentative technique.
- be able to express themselves orally and in writing in formal, clear, concise, correct Swedish.
- be able to work with oral and written composition as a process; give and take constructive criticism and make use of it in revision and improvement of speeches and texts.

Course contents

The greater part of course time is devoted to oral activities, but writing is also an important component.

The course deals with the following:

- rhetorical strategies, patterns, and structures
- basis concepts of rhetoric
- rhetorical figures
- adaptation to the audience and audience contact
- stage fright
- textual and sentential structure
- connections between written and spoken rhetoric.

Oral tasks:

- a five-minute individual descriptive presentation on a general topic
- a fifteen-minute individual persuasive presentation on a topic related to the student's programme
- an oral rhetorical debate on a controversial topic
- a three-minute off-the-cuff speech on one random topic out of a number of given topics.

Written tasks:

- two descriptions intended for two different non-experts of a complicated issue in technology or science.
- an argumentative text
- a short speech analysis.

Procedures: response and process writing are used. Students receive a response to their presentations and written texts from both fellow-students and the teacher. Students will work both individually and in groups.

Course literature

Retorik – konsten att övertyga, kompendium

Textens hantverk. Om retorik och skrivande, Inger Lindstedt, Lund: Studentlitteratur

Konsten att tala, Lennart Hellspong, Lund: Studentlitteratur

Examination

- TEN2 - Oral Presentation, 4.5 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F
- TEN1 - Written Assignments, 3.0 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.

Other requirements for final grade

75% attendance. Oral and written examinations (TEN1; 3 credits and TEN2; 4,5 credits)

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.