



FEO3110 Science Communication 5.0 credits

Vetenskapskommunikation

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

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

Establishment

Course syllabus for FEO3110 valid from Spring 2012

Grading scale

Education cycle

Third cycle

Specific prerequisites

Doctoral students and post docs at the School of Electrical Engineering. The course will be held in English, however written assignments may be submitted in Swedish or English.

Language of instruction

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

Intended learning outcomes

The aim of the course is to train participants' abilities to discern the most important message and to present it to readers as tastefully, accurately and interestingly as possible.

- Identifying different forms of popular scientific communication.
- Considerable amounts of practical training with feedback from professionals.
- Providing opportunities for personal reflection in meetings with colleagues in the same situation.
- Using the doctoral students' own research as working material - participants are expected to provide their own research results to communicate.

Course contents

The following elements are included:

- Popular science

The task of journalism is to describe and examine the world, and in so doing make it comprehensible to ordinary people. How is this done? From first thoughts to finished article? What can a researcher learn from the way a scientific journalist works? This course is aimed at training students' abilities to identify and detach the most important message and to present it in a manner that is tasteful, correct and interesting to the reader.

- Information

Communicating science to different target groups is trained via various exercises. What role does communication play within universities, government agencies and in business? How are external communications managed? Who are the recipients?

- Exercises

Practical exercises in communicating popular science to different target groups are included in all course elements, e.g. monitoring and writing about the Nobel presentation of a Nobel Laureate.

Disposition

Theory and group assignments in both class and as homework, as well as individual assignments:

Short written exercises

Press releases

Popular scientific articles

Popular science lecture or preparations for a TV or radio interview (Nobel Lecture).

Course literature

A Field Guide for Science Writers: The Official Guide of the National Association of Science Writers, Deborah Blum, Mary Knudson, Robin Marantz Henig

The Oxford Book of Modern Science Writing, Richard Dawkins

Examination

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.

Other requirements for final grade

Active participation and 100 per cent presence, completed individual and group assignments and finally a popular science text on student's own research.

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.