



NEWMANINSTITUTET

HÖGSKOLA FÖR TEOLOGI, FILOSOFI OCH KULTUR

Course plan

Communicating with Heart and Soul: The Craft of Moral Dramatization (7.5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle
Course ID: 0212

Admission requirements

General entry requirements for studies at universities. The course is a freestanding course.

Educational goals

The course aims for students to become better able to:

- reflect upon and analyze questions of media, opinion formation, leadership, and democracy;
- research such questions by conducting interviews and seeking out relevant texts;
- write about such questions in essays as well as in short web-based reflections;
- speak about such questions in class presentations and discussions;
- and practice the art of communicating one's message and persuading others in actual public forums.

Course contents

"The responsibility of the writer as a moral agent," Noam Chomsky once observed, "is to try to bring the truth about matters of human significance to an audience that can do something about them." But what if the audience does not care about distant atrocities or gradual catastrophes? Through case studies and practical workshops, we investigate the creative methods that engaged citizens have used to communicate the ethical urgency of human predicaments.

Teaching and examination

The course makes use of lectures, student-led interviews with invited guests, discussions of literature, discussions on the course website, practical exercises (including speeches and simulations), an analytic writing assignment based on interview research, and a take-home exam.

The course is taught in English. The final paper is preferably to be written in English; it is, however, also permitted to write it in Swedish.

Bibliography

The major portion of the course literature consists of articles distributed weekly as web links. In addition, selections from the following books are used:

Narayan, Kirin. *Alive in the Writing: Crafting Ethnography in the Company of Chekhov*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012.

Wood, James. *How Fiction Works*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008.

Coles, Robert. *Doing Documentary Work*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

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