



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2008/2009

MRK 2402 Consumer sociology

Program

Bachelor in Market Communication (2. year)

Responsible for the course

Morten William Knudsen

Department

Department of Marketing

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

Norwegian

Modern man is constantly in the role of the consumer. This development is called commercialization, and shows that new areas are constantly being regulated by the market. In this context consumer sociology has become relevant in order to understand consumption as a meaningful and meaning creating activity. Consumption and life style are determined by social life, and could be described as cultural competence acquired through socialization in primary and secondary groups. Through consumption the individual creates himself and his identity.

Objective

The course in consumer sociology shall give the students a fundamental insight into consumer sociology and life style.

Prerequisites

It would be an advantage if the students have basic knowledge in consumer behaviour.

Compulsory literature

Books:

Schjelderup, Gerhard og Morten William Knudsen, red. 2007. Forbrukersosiologi: makt, tegn og mening i forbrukersamfunnet. Oslo: Cappelen Akademisk Forlag

Recommended literature

Other:

Ingen

Course outline

1. The difference between consumer behaviour and consumer sociology
2. Consumption in the context of role theory, social structure, social integration and social mobility
3. Consumption in the context of the socio-cultural, socialization, power, ideology and stratification
4. Trends and development in the market place and society regarding consumption and life style
5. Consumer stereotypes in consumer theory and advertising
6. Hedonism and utilitarianism, consumption as desire and utility
7. Social structure and power, consumption as a struggle for power
8. Modernism and post-modernism, consumption as identity creation and acting
9. Politics and ethics, consumption as meaning and identity

Computer-based tools

Computer-based tools are not used in this course

Course structure

The course is based on 36 hours of lectures. It is vital for the course that the students get trained in secondary data collecting of consumer data. The course is based upon 10 cases, and the students could expect that one of the cases can be used as bases for the exam. The course requires that the students participate in an active way in the case discussions.

Evaluation

A 72 hours written home exam concludes the course. The home exam can be written in groups of 1-3 students

Evaluation code(s)

MRK 24021 – take-home exam, counts for 100% of the grade in MRK 2402 Consumer sociology, 6 ECTS credits.

Aids at the examination

All aids are allowed at the exam.

Exam aids at written examinations are explained under exam information in our web-based Student handbook. Please note use of calculator and dictionary.
<http://www.bi.edu/studenthandbook/examaids>

Makeup exam

A re-sit in connection with the next scheduled exam in the course