



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/2014

PRK 3520 Media in Modern Society

Programme

Bachelor of Public Relations (2. year)

Responsible for the course

Tor Bang

Department

Department of Communication - Culture and Languages

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

7,5

Language of instruction

Norwegian

Introduction

The media set the agenda in most arenas. The contemporary media spectrum is very diverse. Social actors have to relate to media logic, media diffusion and media influence. The course will also look at computer-mediated communication as a complex and powerful new channel available to individuals and organizations. An analytical approach to the field of media is not possible without an in-depth understanding of communication.

Learning outcome

Acquired knowledge

- On completing the course the students will understand communicative complexity, and comprehend sender-, channel- and receiver perspectives.
- Comprehend the importance of freedom of expression, as a common good per se, as well as a fundamental good for mankind's deliberative political, economic and cultural socialization.
- Understand media as agendasetters in contemporary political, economic and cultural discourses.
- Understand media organizations and media markets on local, regional, national and global levels.
- Be aware of various communicative strategies for the contemporary media channels.
- Assess a medium's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, on micro as well as macro levels in the digital social spheres as well as more traditional mass media channels.
- Be aware of socialpsychological, sociological and anthropological influence on audiences' qualitative and quantitative media choices.
- Understand implications and diffusions of social media, and be able to contribute to a blog, a wiki or to twitter.

Acquired skills

- On completing the course the students will be able to advise organizations in the civil and public spheres (private, public and also non-profits) on media issues, such as freedom of speech, agenda setting and news stories.
- Analyze the financial logics of media ownership and media entrepreneurship and assess issues of economy and distribution for media organizations (for instance questions regarding press support and public service broadcasting).
- Navigate in available databases, i.e. TNS Gallup, ssb.no, offentlighet.no as well as other international databases in relation to audiences' qualitative and quantitative media choices.
- Assess media message and publishing ethically and analytically.

Reflection

After completing the course, students shall be able to critically reflect on the importance of media organizations and mass communication locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

Prerequisites

None

Compulsory reading

Books:

Bang, Tor. 2006. Makt og spinn i mediene. Abstrakt forlag. 320 sider
Enjolras, Bernard ... [et al.]. 2013. Liker - liker ikke : sosiale medier, samfunnsengasjement og offentlighet. Cappelen Damm akademisk. 229 sider

Recommended reading

Books:

Kjeldsen, Jens E. 2006. Retorikk i vår tid : en innføring i moderne retorisk teori. 2. utg. Spartacus. 396
Vivian, John. 2013. The media of mass communication. 11th ed. Pearson. 1-24, 77-104, 151-316, 373-457. For studenter som ikke behersker norsk
Waldahl, Ragnar. 2007. Opinion og demokrati. Universitetsforlaget. 256

Course outline

- Linear and circular communication.
- Coorientational models of communication.
- Social and humanistic fundaments for media and media organizations.
- Freedom of speech.
- Print media.
- Dynamic media.
- Massmedia, social media, convergens of media channels.
- Media economy.
- Qualitative, quantitative and economic audience studies.
- Entrepreneurship in the media sphere.
- Socialpsychological, anthropological and sociological perspectives on media and media audiences.
- Global media organizations.
- Diffusions of innovations, knowledge, and knowledge gaps.
- Ethical issues in the media industry.

Computer-based tools

Word for windows. Computer with access to the Internet.

Learning process and workload

The course will be taught over 45 hours of lecturing and advising. The course content is theoretical.

During the progress of the course, there will be classes given in relevant methodological approach to developing an academic paper. This will include classes in documenting, as well as current standards of references. The students will submit a paper on a given topic.

Recommended use of hours:

Activity	Hours
Attendance in lecture	36
Preparations for lectures	37
Individual and group home work	70
Discussions and peer review, - advise	26
Litterary studies, preparations for exam	31
Total use of hours recommended	200

E-learning

The e-learning platform It's learning is used by the e-learning centre to administrate the mandatory exercises, and make students able to communicate with each other and the Lecturer. 2 module sessions are carried out at the beginning of the semester and before exams. The e-learning students are also offered a study guide which is an educational guide to the syllabus.

Recommended use of hours:

Activity	Hours
Participation in lectures	8
Preparatory to class	10

Work with study guide, submitting assignments, activities It'slearning	45
Exercises and groupwork	70
Study groups and peer counseling	27
Self study / reading literature / exam preparation	40
Anbefalt tidsbruk totalt	200

Use of hours

36 hours class room lectures
9 hours advising.

Examination

Students will submit a written assignments and pass a control exam.

1) A assigned topic term paper that can be developed individually or in groups of two or three. The topic will be given about four weeks into the term. The given topic home exam counts for 100% of the course grade.

2) All students must pass an individual control exam. The control exam questions are taken from the course's theoretical content. Control exams are graded pass/fail. In order to obtain a grade in the course, students must pass the control exam.

Examination code(s)

PRK 35201 - Term project, counts 100% to obtain final grade in PRK 3520, 7,5 credits.

PRK 35202 - Control exam. Must be submitted to get a grade.

Examination support materials

All aids for Term project.

No aids for control exam.

Re-sit examination

This course will be lectured for the last time autumn 2013. Re-sit exam will be offered autumn 2014 and last time spring 2015.

A re-sit in Term project will be offered autumn 2014 and last time spring 2015.

A re-sit in Control exam is held every term and will be offered spring 2014, autumn 2014 and last time spring 2015.

Additional information