

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sustainable Communication, 7.5 credits

Hållbar kommunikation, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Course Code:	FLHKO39	Education Cycle:	Third-cycle level
Confirmed:	Aug 31, 2026	Research subject:	Media and Communication
Valid From:	Jan 18, 2027		

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

The student shall meet the following learning outcomes, which cover knowledge and understanding, skills and abilities as well as judgement and approach. On completion of the course, the student should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

- identify different perspectives on communication and sustainability
- explain how communication can contribute to sustainable or unsustainable processes in society
- identify different scales of mutual influence in the interplay between communication and sustainability
- understand the sociopolitical aspects that permeate the complex relationship between communication and sustainability

Skills and Abilities

- apply conceptualisations of sustainable communication in the context of advanced theoretical and empirical research
- develop research problems and questions with a focus on the complex relationship between sustainability and communication

Judgement and Approach

- critically evaluate and problematise mutual relations of influence and impact between communication and sustainability.

Content

- Introduction to the complex relations between environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainability
- Introduction to conceptualisations of sustainable communication
- Perspectives on the interplay and tensions between journalism and sustainability
- Sustainable communication in the context of organisational cross-sector practices and collaboration
- Perspectives on the interplay and tensions between sustainable communication and social change
- Governmental, private sector, and civic perspectives in the relationship between sustainability and communication

Type of Instruction

The course includes both lectures and seminars, and an examination assignment.

Language of instruction is English.

Entry Requirements

To be admitted to the course, the applicant must meet the general entry requirements for doctoral programmes, i.e. have been rewarded a degree at second-cycle level, or have achieved at least 240 credits, of which a minimum of 60 credits must have been achieved at second-cycle level. English proficiency corresponding to English 6, or English course B in the Swedish upper secondary school system, is required.

Examination and Grades

The course is graded Pass (G) or Fail (U).

Further information concerning assessment of specific intended learning outcomes and grading criteria is provided in a study guide distributed at the beginning of the course.

Other Information

See separate attachment for a detailed schedule and information about the application procedure.

The instruction is followed up throughout the course, and a course evaluation is performed at the end of the course. The course coordinator collates and comments on the evaluation before submitting it to the associate dean of doctoral programmes at the School of Education and Communication. The evaluation is to function as a basis for future improvements to the course.

Course Literature

Please note that the course literature may be revised up to eight weeks before the start of the course.

Almeida, P. (2019). Climate justice and sustained transnational mobilization. *Globalizations*, 16(7), 973-979. (5p.)

Berglez, Peter, Olausson, Ulrika & Ots, Mart (eds) (2017). *What is Sustainable Journalism? What is Sustainable Journalism: Integrating the Environmental, Social and Economic Challenges of Journalism*. New York: Peter Lang Inc. (Introduction, chapters 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16-18, 20. About 200 p.).

Berglez, Peter & Olausson, Ulrika (2014). The Post-Political Condition of Climate Change: An Ideology Approach. *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism*, 25(1), 54-71. (17 p.)

Berglez, Peter, Gearing, Amanda (2018). The Panama and Paradise Papers: The Rise of a Global Fourth Estate. *International Journal of Communication*, 12, 4573-4592. (19 p.).

Cronon, William (1996). The Trouble with Wilderness: Or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature. *Environmental History*, 1(1), 7-28. (22 p.).

Dutta, M. J. (2015). Decolonizing communication for social change: A culture-centered approach. *Communication Theory*, 25(2), 123-143. (20 p.).

Hansen, Anders (2018). *Environment, Media and Communication*. Second Edition. Routledge. (244 p.).

Hartley, J., Ibrus, I., & Ojamaa, M. (2021). Emergent self-mediating classes in the digital semiosphere: Covid-19 conspiracies and the climate justice movement. *Nordic Journal of Media Studies*, 3(1), 118-140. (22 p.).

Hornsey, Matthew J., Harris, Emily A., Bain, Paul G., & Fielding, Kelly S. (2016) Meta-analyses of the Determinants and Outcomes of Belief in Climate Change. *Nature Climate Change*, 6, 622-626. (5 p.).

Jacobsson, Diana (2019). In the Name of (Un)Sustainability: A Critical Analysis of How Neoliberal Ideology Operates Through Discourses About Sustainable Progress and Equality. *TripleC* 17(1): 19-37. (18 p.)

Jönsson, Anna Maria & Karlsson, Mikael (2016). Cooperation, Media and Framing Processes. Insights from a Baltic Sea Case Study. *Nordicom Review*, 37(special issue), 41-55. (15 p.).

Koschman, Matthew A., Kuhn, Timothy & Pfarrer, Michael D. (2012). A Communicative Framework of Value in Cross-Sector of Partnerships. *Academy of Management Review*, 37(3), 332-354. (23 p.).

Kukutai, T., & Taylor, J. (2016). Data sovereignty for indigenous peoples: current practice and future needs. In *Indigenous data sovereignty: Toward an agenda*. ANU Press. (Chapters 2 and 4, 43p.)

Lekakis, Eleftheria J. (2017). Culture jamming and brandalism for the environment: the logic of appropriation. *Popular Communication*, 15(4), 311-327. (18 p.)

Magallanes-Blanco, C. (2015). Talking about our mother: Indigenous videos on nature and the environment. *Communication, Culture & Critique*, 8(2), 199-216. (16p.).

Olausson, Ulrika (2020). Making Sense of the Human-Nature Relationship: A Reception Study of the "Nature Is Speaking" Campaign on YouTube. *Nature and Culture*, 15(3), 272-295. (22 p.).

Olausson, Ulrika & Uggla, Ylva (2019). Celebrities "Celebrifying" Nature: The Discursive Construction of the Human-Nature Relationship in the Nature Is Speaking Campaign. *Celebrity Studies*. DOI: 10.1080/19392397.2019.1626749. (18 p.).

Pattberg, Philipp (2007). Conquest, Domination and Control: Europe's Mastery of Nature in Historic Perspective. *Journal of Political Ecology*, 14. (9 p.).

Sassen, S. (2000). Women's Burden: Counter-geographies of Globalization and the Feminization of Survival. *Journal of international affairs*, 503-524. (20p.).

Touri, Maria (2016). Development Communication in Alternative Food Networks: empowering Indian farmers through market relations. *Journal of International Communication*, 22(2), 209- 228. (19 p.).

United Nations. Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.A/Res/70/1. Available at <http://www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org>. (41 p.).

Van Leuven, Sarah & Berglez, Peter (2016). Global Journalism between Dream and Reality: A comparative study of The Times, Le Monde and De Standaard. *Journalism Studies*, 17(6), 667-683. (16 p.).

Other literature

The Interactive Anti Plagiarism Guide - Jönköping University (will be available on the learning platform)

Search and write (n.d.). Citing sources - how to create literature references. University Library: Jönköping University