Syllabus

LiU Summer Academy: The Use (and Abuse) of Culture, 7.5 ECTS

Credits

Admission Requirements
The course is given within the framework of the Linköping University Summer Academy and is only open to students from Linköping University’s partner universities. The course is on bachelor level and is offered in English. To meet the general entry requirements, students must have completed 1 year of full-time studies (been awarded 60 ECTS credits or equivalent) from one of Linköping University’s partner universities upon application.

Course Description
The course explores a number of different perspectives with regards to how culture is constructed, negotiated and consumed. What (un)truths can we find in various expressions of (popular) culture? And, how may this affect public institutions, political decision-making and scientific production in contemporary society?

The empirical and theoretical approaches of the course are inter-disciplinary and problem-oriented. Some of the problems highlighted during the course are 1) Cultural Heritage and the negotiation of identity politics 2) The possible decline of scientific knowledge in public discourse 3) The changing role of cultural production in post-industrial society.

The course is aimed at those interested in notions of knowledge and truth and how this can be studied from a cultural studies perspective. All those coming from a humanities or social science background will be familiar with the inter-disciplinary approaches of the field of cultural studies. The course consists of three different forms of teaching; lectures, seminars and fieldtrips.
Course Aims
After completing the course the student should be able to:

- Account for different theoretical conceptions of culture.
- Problematize contemporary conditions and challenges for the production of knowledge.
- Understand how individuals, groups and/or public institutions use (and abuse) culture and thereby negotiate larger systems of meanings.

EXAMINATION
During the course all students are assessed on their active participation in seminar discussions. The students will also be given minor, reflective assignments regarding the course literature. These assignments, together with seminar participation, account for 50 % of the final grade. The remaining 50 % is based on a written essay, which is to be submitted in the final week of the course.

Grading
The Course is graded from the ECTS scale using A to F.

Language and Course Level
The course is given in English and is at bachelor level.

Literature
To be decided.

Additional Information
The course considers the knowledge and experience of both women and men, as well as individuals identifying as HBTQ.

Department Offering the Course
Tema Q, ISAK.

Course Coordinators
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