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Course Guidelines

MK7026, Politics and Popular Culture

Course coordinator: Alexa Robertson, alexa.robertson@ims.su.se

Start of the course: 181105

Course description:

The course is about narratives of politics in a globalized world, and more specifically depictions of contemporary world politics in science fiction and fantasy (SF). Several key concepts to be explored are central to theoretical debate in both the humanities and social sciences but tend to be used in very different ways by political scientists and media scholars -- concepts such as realism, representation, identity, myth and power. The course is structured around two theoretical traditions: the study of international relations, and narrative theory. Students will be expected to make scholarship out of the banal, by relating these theories to the sorts of popular culture texts encountered in everyday life, and in particular novels and films from the science fiction and fantasy genre. The course will develop ways of examining such unexamined assumptions and to make 'scholarly sense' of 'common sense' views of the world. It will involve learning to combine theoretical work with methodological innovation and convincing empirical analysis.

Assessment :

The course is examined through the writing of a project report based on the completed pilot study. The project report is submitted and discussed at a seminar. Peer assessment of another student's project report is also required.

Students need to compose their written assignments so that they can be presented electronically, if the teacher so requires. Written exams may be scanned with the tool Urkund. Possible fraud, such as plagiarism, will be reported to the University Disciplinary Committee. Corrected exams can be collected at the Student Office.

Examination dates:

See TimeEdit-link on www.ims.su.se

Plagiarism

As a student, you will be writing and submitting different types of written assignments. It is fundamental that you know that no kind of plagiarism is permitted.



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Plagiarism consists of:

- Students copying from each other;
- Students copying from the internet, books, articles or other sources without a clear reference;
- Students passing a work or a citation as their own when it is not;
- All kind of cut-and-paste writing strategies.

Any incident of this kind will be reported to the Disciplinary committee of Stockholm University. In case you are found guilty you might be suspended from the University for a period of time.

In order to avoid plagiarism you need to:

- Clearly reference your sources by specifying the author(s), the book/article/text and the page;
- Highlight that you are citing someone else's words by using quotation marks;
- Make clear whose thoughts you are presenting if they are not your own;
- Not share your work with other students while in the process of writing the exam assignment.

Writing your own text in your own words is part of your learning process. This will develop your ability to think independently and express your thoughts in speech and writing.