ÖREBRO UNIVERSITET

Course syllabus
Third-cycle courses and study programmes

Architectures and protocols in modern distributed systems 4 credits

Arkitekturer och protokoll för moderna distribuerade system 4 hp

Course Code/Codes	50DT050
Subject Area	Computer Science (Datavetenskap)
School/equivalent	School of Science and Technology (Institutionen för naturvetenskap och teknik)
Valid from	2016-12-15
Approved	2016-12-15
Revised	,
Approved by	Head of School Peter Johansson
Translation to English, date and signature	, ,

1 Course content

The course discusses new and established research in the area of distributed systems. It focuses on process communication and coordination, protocol design and verification, efficient, consistent distributed memory structures. Beyond those classical problems in distributed systems, the course considers also more practical aspects related to testing distributed systems.

2 Outcomes

2.1 The course in relation to the doctoral programme

The course shall primarily refer to the following intended learning outcomes for third-cycle courses and study programmes as described in the Higher Education Ordinance, i.e. the doctoral student shall demonstrate:
Knowledge and understanding

- broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field (part of outcome 1)
- advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field (part of outcome 1)
- familiarity with the methods of the specific field of research in particular (part of outcome 2)

Competence and skills

- the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis (part of outcome 3)
- the capacity to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically (part of outcome 3)
- the ability to review and evaluate research and other qualified tasks (part of outcome 4)
- the ability to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake research and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames (part of outcome 4)
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Judgement and approach

- intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude (part of outcome 9)

The intended learning outcomes are listed in the same order as in the general syllabus for the programme.

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The intended learning outcomes are listed in the same order as in the general syllabus for the programme.

2.2 Intended course learning outcomes

To obtain a passing grade, the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding
- the ability to explain different approaches for communication and memory organization in distributed systems.

Competence and skills
- the competence to review scientific texts on advanced topics in Distributed Systems,
- the ability to apply modern approaches for solving problems related to distribution of processes, memory or other resources in practical work.

Judgement and approach
- the ability to evaluate the performance and other qualities of Distributed Systems based on testing and formal analysis.

3 Reading list and other teaching material

The following course readings and teaching material will be used on the course:

The following course readings and teaching material will be used on the course. A particular selection of recent journal articles adapted to the actual needs and interests of the students will be added when suitable.

Colouris George, Dollimore Jean,. Kindberg Tim. and Blair Godon (latest edition)
Distributed Systems – Concepts and Design
Addison Wesley.

Tanenbaum Andrew. S. and Maarten Van Steen. (latest edition)
Distributed Systems and Paradigms
Pearson Education, New International Edition

4 Teaching formats

Teaching on the course takes the following format:

Teaching takes place in lectures and seminars. In the seminars, the students will present an analysis of suitable, newly published research, as well as solutions to assignments dealing with the design or analysis of particular aspects of a distributed system.

5 Examination

The course is assessed through an examination in the format of

Written reports after each seminar.

6 Grades

Examinations on third-cycle courses and study programmes are to be assessed according to a two-grade scale with either of the grades ‘fail’ or ‘pass’ (local regulations).

The grade shall be determined by a teacher specifically nominated by the higher education institution (the examiner) (Higher Education Ordinance).

To obtain a passing grade on examinations included in the course, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the intended course learning outcomes as described in section 2.2. Alternatively, if the course consists of multiple examinations generating credit, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the outcomes that the examination in question refers to in accordance with section 5.

A student who has failed an examination is entitled to a retake.

If an examination consists of several examination components, and a student fails an examination component, the examiner may, as an alternative to a retake, set a make-up assignment with regard to the examination component in question.

A doctoral student who has failed an examination twice for a specific course or course element is entitled, upon his/her request, to have another examiner appointed to determine the grade.

7 Admission to the course

7.1 Admission requirements

To gain access to the course and complete the examinations included in the course, the applicant must be admitted to a doctoral programme at Örebro University.

7.2 Selection

Selection between applicants who have been admitted to doctoral programmes at Örebro University and who otherwise meet the admission requirements as listed above is made according to the following order of precedence:

If no other selection criteria are specified in this section, priority shall be given to applicants with a lower number of course credits left before the award of their degree over applicants with a higher number of remaining course credits. Should two or more students have equal number of credits, selection will be done through the drawing of lots. This also applies within any selection groups listed unless otherwise stated.

7.3 Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University

Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University may be given access to the course on the grounds of provisions for and/or agreements regarding contracted courses, joint degrees, national graduate schools or cooperation in other respects with other universities.

Any decisions on what such other applicants may be given access to the course are made separately and on the basis of the provisions and/or agreements that occasion the student to apply for the course.

For participation in the course in other respects, the same provisions shall apply as for doctoral students admitted to Örebro University.

8 Transfer of credits for courses, study programmes and other experience

Provisions on the transfer of credits can be found in the Higher Education Ordinance and on the university's webpage.

9 Other information

The course is taught in English.

Transitional provisions

None.