

Scientific Communication in English: Oral Presentations, 5 credits

Vetenskaplig kommunikation på engelska: muntliga presentationer, 5 högskolepoäng

Course Code/Codes	35PS064
Subject Area	Psychology, cross-disciplinary
School/equivalent	School of Law, Psychology and Social work
Valid from	2018-09-20
Approved	2018-09-20
Revised	--
Approved by	Head of School
Translation to English, date and signature	Written in English, then translated into Swedish. kba

1 Course content

Because science is based on the transparent reporting of results to the broad academic community, communicating the results of scientific studies effectively is an essential aspect. This course tackles the fundamentals of oral presentations so that PhD candidates can better communicate their research effectively in English and thereby reach the global academic community. In particular, this course addresses PhD candidates' needs to work effectively in presenting their work orally in various settings ranging from formal international conferences to more informal situations such as an interview with the media. To this end, the course will cover basic elements of good scientific oral presentation skills including the content and delivery of the presentation. This will subsequently be applied to develop a variety of actual oral presentations. Informed by this, we will also investigate the tension between our own creative expression and the conventions of scientific presentations. Because feedback is important in developing content and delivery of an oral presentation we will examine how feedback may be obtained as well as how it may be given in a creative and helpful manner. The course focuses on both knowledge about oral presentations as well as the skills involved in clear scientific communication. Meeting the course objectives will be enhanced by a supportive learning environment, homework, feedback, and considerable practice of the acquired skills

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:

- *Competence and skills*
- the capacity to support the learning of others (part of outcome 8)

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.

2.2 Intended course learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- broad knowledge and understanding of the format for presenting scientific talks in psychology
- Familiarity with the structure of oral presentations in English
- Broad knowledge and understanding of the elements of oral presentations that make a talk clear and interesting

Competence and skills

- Ability to develop the content of an oral presentation according to scientific standards
- Ability to develop delivery skills to produce a scientific oral presentation
- Ability to plan oral presentations including the production of an outline and supporting materials e.g. power point slides
- Ability to present scientific material orally in a variety of relevant scientific settings
- Ability to provide helpful and constructive feedback about an oral presentation given by another person

Judgement and approach

- Ability to observe and analyze oral presentations from a presenter's perspective
- Ability to evaluate and make ethical judgments about oral presentations e.g. concerning authorship and plagiarism

After successfully completing the course, the participant will be able to:

- critically evaluate an oral presentation in a scientific setting in psychology
(Examination: written critical evaluation of a scientific presentation)
- describe and employ revision strategies to make an oral presentation more clear, coherent, concise, and interesting
(examination: provide written feedback on a draft presentation that employs the strategies)
- develop a working outline to guide the development of the content and its support materials (e.g. power points) for a presentation
(examination: a written outline with support materials)
- develop oral presentation delivery skills for scientific presentations
(examination: oral presentations)
- present, and explain the strategies employed in an oral presentation
(examination: develop a talk, make the presentation, and provide a summary of the strategies employed to make it clear, concise, coherent and interesting)

3 Reading list and other teaching material

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

This course utilizes reference books, articles, and materials available on the internet in order to provide current and applicable information. Students will be involved in finding and selecting

sources to support the objectives of the course. For instance, they will be active in finding materials about how to revise a presentation. In addition, since students will be working on writing articles with various subject matters, some of the teaching material will be defined by this and cannot be provided here.

Literature

The Craft of Scientific Presentations: Critical Steps to Succeed and Critical Errors to Avoid. Michael Alley. Third Printing Edition. Springer New York. 286 pages ISBN 9781441982780

Additional articles, webpages, etc will be assigned as students develop their writing projects.

4 Teaching formats

Teaching on the course takes the following format:

Teaching will take the form of short lectures, seminars, homework, and contact hours. Students will be involved and are expected to be active participants throughout the course. Short presentations of material will be followed by discussion and in-class work. Each session will also have assigned homework in the form of readings, skills practice, and preparation for presentations and discussion in the classroom. Because the course concerns oral presentations, a central part of the course will be presenting and evaluating oral presentations during class.

5 Examination

The course is assessed through the following examinations which will be graded separately:

Module 0100, 2 credits. The objectives of developing the content of an oral presentation will be evaluated by a written outline for a talk and the provision of supporting materials e.g. visual aids and a written critical evaluation of a scientific oral presentation in English.

Module 0200, 3 credits. The objective of developing oral delivery skills will be examined by assigned oral presentations. The objective of making and analyzing a presentation will be examined by a formal oral presentation and a written summary of the analysis of the strategies employed

For examinations consisting of several examination components, the following applies: If during the course it is concluded that a doctoral student is unable to complete a certain examination component, the examiner may set a substitute assignment provided that circumstances do not reasonably allow for the course component to be completed at a later date during the run of the course.

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.

The student must be proficient in written and oral English

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:

Doctoral students in psychology will be given priority.

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.

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

Transitional provisions
