

COURSE SYLLABUS

Global Crisis Communication, 7.5 credits

Global Crisis Communication, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Course Code:	LGCS20	Education Cycle:	Second-cycle level
Confirmed:	May 22, 2026	Disciplinary domain:	Social sciences
Valid From:	Aug 31, 2026	Subject group:	Media and Communication Studies
		Specialised in:	A1F Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements
		Main field of study:	Media and Communication Science

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

On completion of the course, the student should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

- explain crisis communication theories
- explain the various roles of media and organizations in the communication of global crises
- explain theories about cosmopolitanism in relation to media reporting on global risks and crises

Skills and Abilities

- apply crisis communication theories to examine the roles of media and organizations in the communication of global crises
- apply cosmopolitanism theories to examine the role of media in reporting on global risks and crises

Judgement and Approach

- critically evaluate the roles of media and organizations in the communication of global crises
- critically evaluate theories about cosmopolitanism in relation to media reporting on global risks and crises
- critically evaluate crisis communication theories in relation to technological development in media and communication

Content

- The role of the media and organizations in communicating global risks and crises
- Cosmopolitanism and media reporting on global risks and crises
- Crisis communication theories and practices

Type of Instruction

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and exercises performed individually and in groups.

A learning management system is used.

Students who have been admitted to and registered for a course have the right to receive instruction/supervision for the duration of the time period specified for the particular course instance to which they were accepted. After that, the right to receive instruction/supervision expires.

Language of instruction is English.

Entry Requirements

Passed courses of at least 30 credits from the master's programme Sustainable Communication, or equivalent.

Examination and Grades

The course is graded A, B, C, D, E, FX or F.

The grades A, B, C, D and E are all passing grades. For courses with more than one element of examination, students are given a final grade based on an overall assessment of all the elements included in the course. The final grade of the course is issued only when all elements of examination have been passed.

The examination is based on instruction and course literature. The course is examined through written and oral assignments.

- Seminars - 1 credit, Grading Pass/Fail

Students will engage in discussions about the roles of media and/or organizations in the communication of global crises through the exploration of either fictitious or real-life crisis situations

- Group written assignment - 2 credits, Grading Pass/Fail

In groups assigned at the beginning of the course students will elaborate a project for a communication intervention to address a crisis situation.

- Group oral presentation - 1 credits, Grading Pass/Fail

In the groups assigned at the beginning of the course students will present the group project orally to the class.

- Individual written assignment - 3.5 credits, Grading A-F

The individual written assignment consists of an argumentative text in which the student will discuss a chosen topic from the perspectives of the theories and concepts covered in the course.

The examination must allow for students to be assessed on an individual basis. Further information concerning assessment of specific intended learning outcomes and grading criteria is provided at the beginning of the course.

Registration of examination:

Name of the Test	Value	Grading
Written group assignment ¹	2 credits	G/U
Individual written assignment ¹	3.5 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F
Group oral presentation	1 credit	G/U
Seminars ¹	1 credit	G/U

¹ The examination is graded Fail (U) or Pass (G)

Course Evaluation

The instruction is followed up throughout the course. A course evaluation is conducted at the end of the course. A summary and comments are published in the learning management system. The evaluation constitutes a basis for future improvements to the course.

Other Information

Students are guaranteed a minimum of three attempts to pass an examination, including the regular attempt.

If a student has failed the same examination three times, the student can request that the next attempt be graded by a new examiner. The decision to accept or reject such a request is made by the associate dean of education. A student may not make a second attempt at any examination already passed in order to receive a higher grade.

In case a course is terminated or significantly altered, examination according to the earlier syllabus shall be offered on at least two occasions in the course of one year after the termination/alteration.

The examiner has the right to give an adapted examination or let the student carry out the examination in an alternative way provided that the intended learning outcomes can be secured and that there are exceptional reasons for this, including the student's right to targeted study support.

Course Literature

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

Beck, Ulrich (2009). *World at Risk*. Cambridge: Polity. (pp. 1-67) 67 pages.

Chouliaraki, Lilie & Vestergaard, Anne (2021). *Routledge Handbook of Humanitarian Communication*. New York: Routledge. (pp. 25-38, 66-86) 33 pages.

Cottle, Simon (1998). Ulrich Beck, 'risk society' and the media: A catastrophic view? *European Journal of Communication* 13(1). (pp. 5-32) 17 pages.

Cottle, Simon (2014). Rethinking media and disasters in a global age: What's changed and why it matters. *Media, War & Conflict* 7(1). (pp. 3-22) 19 pages.

Cottle, Simon & Cooper, Glenda (2015). *Humanitarianism, Communication, and Change*. New York: Peter Lang. (pp. 9-38, 53-59) 25 pages.

Jin, Yan & Austin, Lucinda (2022). *Social Media and Crisis Communication* (Second Edition). New York: Routledge. (pp. 130-167) 37 pages.

Pantti, Mervi, Wahl-Jorgensen, Karin & Cottle, Simon (2012). *Disasters and the Media*. New York: Peter Lang. (pp. 35-60) 25 pages.

Sellnow, Timothy. L. & Seeger, Matthew. W. (2021). *Theorizing Crisis Communication* (Second Edition). New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons. (pp. 1-32, 192-212, 293-310). 68 pages.

Additional texts may be added as required readings for specific lectures and will be made available through the library.

Citing Sources – How to Create Literature References

<https://ju.se/library/academic-language/reference-management.html>

Sourcewise: A Student's Guide to Avoiding Plagiarism

Information about plagiarism at higher education institutions

Available in the learning management system