



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
Department of Cultural Sciences

1BO435 Dokument i teori och praktik, 7,5 högskolepoäng  
Documents in theory and practice, 7.5 credits

**Main field of study**  
Library and Information Science

**Subject Group**  
Library and Information Science

**Level of classification**  
First Level

**Progression**  
G1F

**Date of Ratification**  
Approved 2017-06-20  
Revised 2019-02-26 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Revised prerequisites  
The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2019

**Prerequisites**  
General entry requirements.

### Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- account for theoretical foundations in the sub-field of document studies in library and information science,
- account for the main trends in the historical development of books and media, focusing on the use of documents in various contexts,
- critically analyse today's use of documents and their role in various practical social and institutional contexts.

## Content

This course is based on a theoretical and historical understanding of the practical use of documents in various social and institutional contexts. It includes three integrated parts. The first part discusses definitions of documents and various approaches to the study of documents. The second part exemplifies the practical importance of documents in the history of books and media, focusing on the social function of books and other forms of media and documents. The third part focuses on the use of documents in different contexts from a more practical perspective. The use and role of documents are studied from both theoretical and practical perspectives, focusing either on various institutions, such as the police, Lantmäteriet and medical practices, or on different documents, such as passports, medical journals and maps.

Participation in seminars is compulsory.

## Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures and text-based seminars. Teaching is normally delivered in Swedish, but parts of the teaching may be conducted in English or other Scandinavian languages than Swedish.

## Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

The course is examined through oral and written tests and presentations of compulsory assignments. Supplementary examination of compulsory seminar exercises is carried out in the form of a seminar or a written assignment.

In order to receive the grade of Pass, the student must achieve the objectives. Grading criteria for the grade of Pass with Distinction will be specified when the course starts. For students who do not pass the first examinations, retake examinations are provided in accordance with local regulations at the university.

## Course Evaluation

At the end of the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are communicated to the students who have taken the course and the students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time. The evaluation is anonymous. The course evaluation is filed according to departmental regulations.

## Required Reading and Additional Study Material

### Required reading

Briet, S (latest edition) *What is documentation?* Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press. 70 p.

Brown, John Seely & Duguid, Paul (1996) "The social life of documents". *First Monday*, 1(1) 6 May 1996. Electronic resource. 20 p.

Buckland, M. (1996) "What is a document?". *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*, 48(9), 804–809. 5 p.

Buckland, M. (2014) "Documentality beyond documents". *The Monist*, Vol. 97 (2), 179–186. 7 p.

Finkelstein, D & McCleery, A. (latest edition) *An introduction to book history*. London: Routledge, 166 p.

Ferraris, M. (2014) "Total mobilization". *The Monist*, Vol. 97 (2), 200–221. 21 p.

Grenersen, G., Kemi, K. & Nilsen, S. (2016) "Landscapes as documents: the relationship between traditional Sámi terminology and the concepts of document and documentation". *Journal of Documentation*, 72 (6), 1181-1196, 15 p.

Hansson, J. (latest edition) *Att bilda en bibliotekarie: essäer*. Lund BTJ Förlag. The

chapter "Dokumentforskning: ett alternativt paradigm i biblioteks och informationsvetenskapens teoriutveckling", pp. 41–66. 25 p.

Hjörland, B. (2000) "Documents, memory institutions and information science". *Journal of Documentation*, 56 (1), 27-41, 14 p.

Kjellman, U. (2016) "To document the undocumentable: photography in the scientific practice of physical anthropology and race biology". *Journal of Documentation*, 72 (5), 813-831, 18 p.

Latham, K. F. (2014) "Experiencing documents". *Journal of Documentation*, 70 (4), 544-561, 17 p.

Latham, K. F. (2012) "Museum object as document: using Buckland's information concepts to understand museum experiences". *Journal of Documentation*, 68 (1), 45-71, 26 p.

Levy, David M. (latest edition) *Scrolling forward: making sense of documents in the digital age*. New York: Arcade Publishing, 223 p.

Lund, N. W. & Buckland, M. (2008) "Document, documentation and the document academy: an introduction". *Archival Science*, 8, 161–164. 3 p.

Lund, N. W. & Skare, R. (2010) "Document theory". *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*, 3rd ed, 1(1), 1632–1639. 7 p.

Sköld, O. (2015) "Documenting virtual world cultures: memory-making and documentary practices in the City of Heroes community". *Journal of Documentation*, 71 (2), 294-316, 22 p.

Sundberg, K. & Kjellman, U. (2018) "The tattoo as a document". *Journal of Documentation*, 74 (1), 18-35, 17 p.

Additional reading of ca. 100 pages in consultation with teacher.