



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

4DH405 Kritisk teori och digital transformation, 7,5 högskolepoäng
4DH405 Critical Theory and Digital Transformation, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Digital Humanities

Subject Group

Library and Information Science

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2019-10-14

Revised 2023-09-22 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Revised literature.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2024

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies and specific entry requirements:
A bachelor of arts in any main field of study or an equivalent degree (at least 180 credits).

Objectives

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

- explain the critical tradition within the humanities and social sciences,
- draw upon critical theories to identify the consequences of society's uptake of digital objects, cultures, and practices, i.e., digital transformation,
- reflect on the impacts and implications of digitisation in scholarship and cultural heritage and, by extension, the ramifications for digital humanities research,
- apply a critical perspective to the planning, realisation, tools, methods, and findings of digital humanities research,
- incorporate theory and practice into a project proposal.

Content

The critical tradition of the humanities and social sciences serves to contextualise and problematise the implementation of digital technologies and associated digital practices,

including the implementation of artificial intelligence. This course explores these digital transformations in academia, cultural heritage institutions, and society at large by applying the critical standpoints to matters such as gender, race, ethics, power, or any intersection thereof. Special attention is given to the application of these standpoints to methods and practices within digital humanities. During the course, the students analyse a digital humanities project through critical lenses together with their peers and collaboratively contribute to the course Wiki. The students also create a proposal for a digital humanities project of their own, using the concepts explored in the course.

Type of Instruction

Instruction is delivered online, using the current online learning platform. Lectures and assignments will be available via the learning platform.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E, Fx or F.

The final examination is divided into two parts: a written assignment and a prerecorded online presentation of the assignment. For this examination, the student will develop a proposal for a digital humanities project that they have thought of themselves and that incorporates content and themes of the course.

"A" constitutes the highest grade on the scale and the remaining grades follow in descending order, where "E" is the lowest grade on the scale resulting in a pass. "F" means that the student's performance is assessed as failed. Grading criteria for the A–F scale are communicated to the students in a separate document. The students are informed about the grading criteria when the course starts, at the latest.

Resit examination is offered in accordance with Local regulations for courses and examination at the first- and second-cycle levels at Linnaeus University. If the university has decided that a student is entitled to special study support due to a disability, the examiner has the right to give a customised exam or to have the student conduct the exam in an alternative way.

Course Evaluation

During or shortly after the course, a course evaluation should be conducted. The result and analysis of the course evaluation should be promptly communicated to the students who have taken the course. Students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time should be informed of the result at the course introduction. The course evaluation is anonymous.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Berry, David. M. & Fagerjord, Anders. (latest edition) *Digital humanities: Knowledge and critique in a digital age*. Cambridge: Polity. 190 p.

Berry, D.M. (2014) *Critical theory and the digital*. New York: Bloomsbury Academic. 226 p.

D'Ignazione, Catherine. & Klein, Lauren. (latest edition) *Data feminism*. Cambridge, Ma: MIT. 328 p.

Gold, Matthew. K., & Klein Lauren. F. (latest edition). *Debates in the digital humanities*. Minnesota: University of Minnesota. (A selection of 100 p.)

Risam, R. (latest edition) *New digital worlds?: Postcolonial digital humanities in theory, praxis, and pedagogy*. Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press. 176. (circa 100 pages)

Thylstrup, N. B. (2019) *The politics of mass digitization*. Cambridge: MIT Press. 200 pages.

Thylstrup, N. B., Agostinho, D., Ring, A., D'Ignazio, C. & Veel, K. (latest edition) *Uncertain archives?: Critical keywords for big data*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press. 624 p. (circa 100 pages)

Students are expected to select an additional 600 pages of scientific literature.