



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

4DH430 Informationsetik, politik och policy i en digital värld, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Information Ethics, Politics and Policies in the Digital World, 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 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2020-05-07

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2021

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for second cycle studies and specific entry requirements: Bachelor of Arts in any discipline or equivalent degree (180 credits at least).

Objectives

After this course is completed, the student should:

- be able to account for central concepts and problems within the cross-disciplinary research area of information ethics,
- identify present problems and issues, by means of examples,
- analyse ethical aspects on issues concerning access to, and use of, information and data in a cultural heritage context,
- discuss the connection between access to, and use of, information and data as a political problem.

Content

This course deals with current issues on access to, and use of, information and data from an ethical perspective. Information ethics is discussed as a cross-disciplinary field of research, and current issues are analysed with the help of actual examples. The course focuses on three main areas: 1) organization of, and access to, information and data, 2) use of information and data, including questions of personal integrity, and 3) information poverty. Within each of these focus areas, practical examples are analysed against a legislative and principal background. The treatment of ethical and political aspects within the digital cultural heritage sector is given special priority. During the course, discussions based on actual cases and examples will be implemented.

Type of Instruction

Teaching will be given through lectures and seminars.

Examination

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

The grade A constitutes the highest grade on the scale and the remaining grades follow in descending order where the grade E is the lowest grade on the scale that will result in a pass. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as fail. Grade criteria for the A–F scale are communicated to the student through a special document. The student is to be informed about the grade criteria for the course by the start of the course at the latest.

Repeat examination is offered in accordance with Local regulations for courses and examination at the first and second-cycle level at Linnaeus University. If the university has decided that a student is entitled to special pedagogical 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 the implementation of the course or in close conjunction with the course, a course evaluation is to be carried out. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are to be promptly presented as feedback to the students who have completed the course. Students who participate during the next course instance receive feedback at the start of the course. The course evaluation is to be carried out anonymously.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Britz, J. J. (2004). To know or not to know: A moral reflection on information poverty. *Journal of Information Science*, 30(3), p. 192-204. (12 p.)
doi:10.1177/0165551504044666

Floridi, L. (latest edition). *The Ethics of Information*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (150 p.)

Papacharissi, Z. (Ed.) (latest edition). *A Networked Self and Platforms, Stories, Sonnections*. New York: Routledge. (214 p.)

Yu, L. (2006). Understanding information inequality: Making sense of the literature of the information and digital divides. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, 38(4), p. 229-252. (23 p.) doi:10.1177/0961000606070600

Yu, L. (2011). The divided views of the information and digital divides: A call for integrative theories of information inequality. *Journal of Information Science*, 37(6), p. 660-679. (20 p.) doi:10.1177/0165551511426246

Zuboff, S. (latest edition). *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power*. London: Profile Books. (520 p.)

Additional 300 pages are read in relation to individual assignments.

