



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Department of Film and Literature

4FV701 Film, arkiv och digital kultur, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Film, archive and digital culture, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Film Studies

Subject

Film Studies

Level

Second cycle

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2014-12-01.

Revised 2025-05-26. Revision of course literature.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2025.

Prerequisites

Bachelor's degree in Film Studies or the equivalent.

Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to

- account for the main features of the film and media theoretical debates about digitalisation covered in the course
- critically discuss the concept of archives on the basis of relevant perspectives within film and cultural studies
- conduct an individual analysis of one or several digital archives for film or film-related material, using appropriate language.

Content

The course explores the importance for film studies of physical and digital film archives, and discusses questions concerning the materiality of moving images. Is a film the same regardless of the format and the context in which we have seen it? How does digitalisation affect different aspects of the history of film and TV? Are platforms used for the distribution of moving images, such as YouTube, to be considered as digital archives, even though preservation of films is not at all what they are concerned with? The concept of archives is problematised and the students develop research questions on the basis of the course literature, in independent projects focusing on one or several digital film archives.

Type of Instruction

The course is offered as a distance course via an online learning platform. Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, seminars and group exercises focusing on websites such as Filmarkivet.se, European Film Gateway, Britishpathe.com, Euscreen.eu and Öppetarkiv.se.

Examination

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

In order to receive the grade of Pass, the student must achieve the objectives. Grading criteria for the grade of Pass with Distinction are specified in a study guide.

The course is examined through seminar assignments, group exercises and a written assignment.

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

A course evaluation should be conducted during the course or in connection with its conclusion. The results and analysis of the completed course evaluation should be promptly communicated to students who have completed the course. Students participating in the next course instance should be informed of the results of the previous course evaluation and any improvements that have been made, no later than at the start of the course.

Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following course/courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course:
Module 2 in 4FV01E (Master in film studies).

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Acland, Charles R. and Eric Hoyt (eds). *The Arclight Guidebook to Media History and the Digital Humanities*. Falmer: REFRAME/Project Arclight, 2016. 414 p. Open access PDF and EPUB.

Brunow, Dagmar. "Naming, shaming, framing? Ambivalence of queer visibility

inaudiovisual archives.” In: Anu Koivunen, Katariina Kyrölä & Ingrid Ryberg (eds). *The Power of Vulnerability: Mobilizing Affect in Feminist, Queer and Anti racist Media Cultures*. Manchester University Press, 2018. pp. 174–195. 21 p.

Brunow, Dagmar. . “Curating Access to Audiovisual Heritage: Cultural Memory and Diversity in European Film Archives.” *Image and Narrative* (18) 1, 2017. Freely available. pp. 97–110. 13 p.

Cifor, Marika, Hanna Girma, Shanya Norman, and Miriam Posner. "Early African-American Film Database, 1909–1930." *Journal of Open Humanities Data* [Online], 4: 1, 2018. Freely available [.

Dang, Sarah-Mai, Tim van der Heijden, and Christian Gosvig Olesen (eds). *Doing Digital Film History. Concepts, Tools, Practices*. Berlin/Boston: de Gruyter. Latest edition. Freely available. 449 p.

Derrida, Jacques. *Archive Fever: A Freudian Impression* (translated by Eric Prenowitz) 1996. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Latest edition. 113 p.

Fossati, Giovanna. *From Grain to Pixel: The Archival Life of Film in Transition*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam UP. Latest edition. 423 p.

Thylstrup, Nanna Bonde, Agostinho, Daniela, D'Ignazio, Catherine, Veel, Kristin & Ring, Annie (eds.). *Uncertain archives: critical keywords for big data*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press. Latest edition. 624 pp. (Selection, ca 100 p.).

Compendium of journal articles provided by the department. Freely available. ca 200 p.