Linnæus University

Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Department of Cultural Sciences

4HI505 Digital historia: metoder, resurser och ontologier, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Digital History: Methods, Resources and Ontologies, 7.5 credits

Main field of study
Digital Humanities
History

Subject
History

Level
Second cycle

Progression
A1N

Date of Ratification
Approved 2020-09-16.
Revised 2024-06-12. Revised course literature.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2024.

Prerequisites
General entry requirements for studies at the advanced level, and specific entry requirements: a Bachelor of Arts in any discipline or an equivalent degree of at least 180 credits. English B/English 6, or the equivalent.

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

- define digital history

- critically review the role of digital history as a discipline within the humanities

- apply a selection of digital tools and/or methods within the field of digital history, from a digital as well as a traditional perspective

- critically review digital aspects, digitalisation, and the digital turn in history research and communication of history.

Content

In this course we critically examine the question of what defines digital history. The course provides an introduction to different digital methods and tools that can be used for research, communication, and analysis, in the subject of history. The student gets to work with digitised source material and critically reflect upon the difference between digitisation and digitalisation. The course also offers an introduction to a selection of different tools in the following fields: digital transcription, databases, digital communication, and digital visualisation. The course also covers theoretical aspects, including a critical review of how digital tools and digitalisation can be used in history research and communication of history.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is distance-based, using an online learning platform. It consists of lectures, participation in web-based group discussions, practical components, and self-study. Lectures and assignments are available on the course learning platform. Deadlines for assignments and examinations are provided in the timetable on the learning platform.

Examination

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

The course is examined through hand-in assignments on a selection of the practical parts, as well as through a major final assignment. The exact format of the final assignment may vary depending on the approach taken.
The hand-in assignments are assessed with Fail or Pass. The final assignment is assessed with the A–F scale, where the grade A constitutes the highest grade on the scale and the remaining grades follow in descending order, with E being the lowest grade on the scale resulting in a pass. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as fail. Grading criteria for the A–F scale are communicated to the student in a separate document. The student is informed about the grading criteria for the course 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 level at Linnaeus University. In the event that a student with a disability is entitled to special study support, the examiner will decide on adapted or alternative examination arrangements.

Course Evaluation

Course evaluation should be conducted during or shortly after the course. The results and analysis should be promptly communicated to those who have taken 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.

Other Information

When the course is given in English, examination is in English too.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Andersen, J. (2018). "Archiving, Ordering, and Searching: Search Engines, Algorithms, Databases, and Deep Mediatization". *Media, Culture & Society* 40, nr 8 (november 2018): 1135–50. (*)

Autio, H., Barbagallo, M., Ask, C., Bard Hagberg, D., Lindqvist Sandgren, E., Strinnhom Lagergren, K. (2021). "Historically Based Room Acoustic Analysis and Auralization of a Church in the 1470s". *Applied Sciences* 11:4. (*)

Birnbaum, D.J., Bonde S. & Kestemont, M. (2017). "The Digital Middle Ages: An Introduction". *Speculum* 92, pp. S1–S38. (*)

Bowker, Geoffrey C., Karen Baker, Florence Millerand, and David Ribes. (2009). "Toward Information Infrastructure Studies: Ways of Knowing in a Networked Environment". In J. Hunsinger, L. Klastrup, & M. Allen (eds) *International Handbook of Internet Research*, pp. 97–117. Dordrecht: Springer Netherlands (*)

Champion, E. & Foka, A. (2020). "Art History, Heritage Games, and Virtual Reality", in K. Brown (ed.) *The Routledge Companion to Digital Humanities and Art History,* Ch 17. London: Routledge. 16 pp. (*)

Cohen, D. J. & Rosenzweig, R. (2006). *Digital History*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. In selection, approx. 139 pp. (*)

Crymble, A. (2021). *Technology and the Historian: Transformations in the Digital Age*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press. In selection, approx. 34 pp. (*)

Dunn, S. 2019. *A History of Place in the Digital Age*. London: Routledge. In selection, approx. 31 pp. (*)

Ellis Nilsson, S. (2020). "Digital history: digitizing and communicating the past: a case study", in J. Hansson & J. Svensson (eds). *Doing digital humanities: concepts, approaches, cases*, p. 219–239. Växjö: Linnaeus University Press. 27 pages. (*)

Elo, K. (2020) "Big Data, Bad Metadata. A Methodological Note on the Importance of Good Metadata in the Age of Digital History", in M. Fridlund, M. Oiva, & P. Paju (eds). *Digital Histories: Emergent Approaches within the New Digital History*. Helsinki: Helsinki University Press, pp. 103–112. (*)

Graham, S., Eve, S., Morgan C., & Pantos, A. (2019). "Hearing the past", in K. Kee, T. Compeau (eds). *Seeing the Past with Computers: Experiments with Augmented Reality and Computer Vision for History*. Michigan: University of Michigan Press, pp. 224–236. (*)

Jarlbrink, J. (2020) "All the Work that Makes It Work. Digital Methods and Manual Labour", in M. Fridlund, M. Oiva, & P. Paju (eds). *Digital Histories: Emergent Approaches within the New Digital History*. Helsinki: Helsinki University Press, pp. 113–126. (*)

Kasperowski D., Johansson K.-M. and Karsvall O. (2024) "Temporalities and Values in an Epistemic Culture: Citizen Humanities, Local Knowledge, and AI-supported Transcription of Archives", *Archives & Manuscripts*, 510, p. e10937. (*)

Knox, H. & Walford, A. (2016). "Is There an Ontology to the Digital?" *Theorizing the Contemporary, Cultural Anthropology website* (24 March, 2016). (*)

Manovich, Lev, "Databases as Symbolic Form". http://manovich.net/index.php/projects/database-as-a-symbolic-form, approx. 25 pp. (*)

Milligan, I. (2022). *The Transformation of Historical Research in the Digital Age (Elements in Historical Theory and Practice)*, Sections 1.3, and 2.3–27. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (*)

Nygren, T., Foka, A. & Buckland, P. (2014). "The Status Quo of Digital Humanities in Sweden: Past, Present and Future of Digital History," *H-Soz-Kult, Humbolt University,* approx. 18 pages. (*)

Nygren, T. (2015). "Students Writing History Using Traditional and Digital Archives". *HUMAN IT* 12:3, pp. 78–116. (*)

Lünen, A. v. (2013), "Tracking in a New Territory: Re-imaging GIS for History", in Lünen, A. v. & C. Travis (eds), *History and GIS: Epistemologies, Considerations and Reflections*. Dordrecht: Springer, pp. 211–239. 29 pages. (*)

Owens, T. (2015). "Digital Sources & Digital Archives: The Evidentiary Basis of Digital History". *Trevor Owens: User Centered Digital Memory,* approx. 16 pp. (*)

Petrulevich, A., Backman, A. & Adams, J. (2019), "Medieval Macrospace Through GIS: The Norse World Project's Approach". *The Cartographic Journal* 57:1, approx. 10 pages. (*)

Putnam, L. (2016), "The Transnational and the Text-Searchable: Digitized Sources and the Shadows They Cast". *Am. Hist. Rev.* 121. pp. 377–402. 26 pages. (*)

Risam, R. (2019). *New Digital Worlds: Postcolonial Digital Humanities in Theory, Praxis, and Pedagogy*. Evanston, USA: Northwestern University Press. In selection, approx. 30 pp. (*)

Robertson, S. et al., Arguing with Digital History working group (2017). "Digital History and Argument," white paper, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media (November 13, 2017). 30 pages. (*)

Robertson, S. (2016). "The Differences between Digital Humanities and Digital History". In M. K. Gold & L. F. Klein (eds). *Debates in the Digital Humanities*, 2016, approx. 10 pp (*)

Salmi, H. (2021). *What is Digital History?* Cambridge:Polity Press. 92 pp. (*)

Virdee, P. (2022). "Histories and Memories in the Digital Age of Partition Studies", *The Oral History Review*, 49:2, pp. 328-345, 18 pp. (*)

White, M. & Jackson, B. (2020). "A Service-Orientation and Open-Source Approach to Developing Virtual Museums", in K. Brown (ed.) *The Routledge Companion to Digital Humanities and Art History*. London: Routledge. 23 pp. (*)

Wolfgang, E. (2013). *Digital Memory and the Archive*. Minneapolis: University of

Minnesota Press. In selection, approx. 50 pp. (*)

Wrisley, D. J. (2017). "Locating Medieval French, or Why We Collect and Visualize the Geographic Information of Texts". *Speculum* 92, pp. S145–S169. (*)

Approx. 100 pages of scholarly literature chosen in consultation with the teacher.

Additional literature
Baca, Murtha (2016). "Intro to Metadata." In Murtha Baca (ed.), *Introduction to Metadata*, 3rd ed. Los Angeles: Getty Publications. (*)

Boyle, J. & Burgess, H. J. (eds) (2017). *The Routledge Research Companion to Digital Medieval Literature*. London: Routledge. In selection. (*)

Burrows, T. (2017). "The History and Provenance of Manuscripts in the Collection of Sir Thomas Phillipps: New Approaches to Digital Representation". *Speculum* 92, pp. S39–S64. (*)

Crymble, A. (2021). *Technology and the Historian: Transformations in the Digital Age.* Chicago: University of Illinois Press. Remaining parts. (*)

Driscoll, Kevin (2012). "From Punched Cards to 'Big Data': A Social History of Database Populism". *Communication +1* 1, no. 1 (2012). (*)

Dunn, S. (2019). *A History of Place in the Digital Age*. London: Routledge. Remaining chapters. (*)

Ellis Nilsson, S., Zachrisson, T. Fröjmark, A., et al. (2023). "Mapping Saints: creating a digital spatial research infrastructure to study medieval lived religion", in A. Petrulevich & S. Skovgaard Boeck (eds). *Digital Spatial Infrastructures and Worldviews in Pre-Modern Societies*. York: ARC Humanities Press, pp. 33–58. (*)

Frankle, E. "More Crowdsourced Scholarship: Citizen History". *AAM Center for the Future of Museums blog*. Available at: https://www.aam-us.org/2011/07/28/more-crowdsourced-scholarship-citizen-history/ Retrieved: 23/06/2020. (*)

Fridlund, M., Oiva, M. & Paju, P. (eds) (2020). *Digital Histories: Emergent Approaches within the New Digital History*. Helsinki: Helsinki University Press. Remaining chapters. (*)

Gitelman, L. (ed). (2013). *'Raw Data' Is an Oxymoron*. Infrastructures Series. Cambridge, Massachusetts; London, England: The MIT Press. In selection.

Gregory, I., DeBats, D. & Lafreniere, D. (eds.) (2018). *The Routledge Companion to Spatial History*. London: Routledge. In selection.

Kee, K. & Compeau, T. (eds) (2019). *Seeing the Past with Computers. Experiments with Augmented Reality and Computer Vision for History*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. (*)

Leon, S. M. (2017). "Returning Women to the History of Digital History". *[bracket] images, teaching technology...* Available at: https://www.6floors.org/bracket/2016/03/07/returning-women-to-the-history-of-digital-history/ (*)

Milligan, I. (2022). *The Transformation of Historical Research in the Digital Age*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Remaining parts. (*)

Milligan, I. (2019). *History in the Age of Abundance? How the Web Is Transforming Historical Research*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press. Ch 2, pp. 62–105. 44 pages. (*)

Milligan, Ian. (2013). "Illusionary Order: Online Databases, Optical Character Recognition, and Canadian History, 1997–2010." *Canadian Historical Review* 94 (4): 540–69. (*)

Ramsay, Stephen (2016). [Databases](#). In S. Schreibman, R. Siemens & J. Unsworth (eds), *A Companion to Digital Humanities*. Wiley-Blackwell. (*)

Terras, M. (2016). "Crowdsourcing in the Digital Humanities". In S. Schreibman, R. Siemens & J. Unsworth (eds), *A New Companion to Digital Humanities*. Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 420–439. (*)

Texts marked with an asterisk (*) are available on the course learning platform or via a link.