Linnæus University

Dnr: LNU-2026/160

Course syllabus

Faculty of Technology
Department of Informatics

4IK620 Aktuella frågor inom informatikforskning och -utveckling, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Contemporary issues in informatics research and development, 7.5 credits

Main field of study
Informatics

Subject
Informatics/Computer and Systems Sciences

Level
Second cycle

Progression
A1N

Date of Ratification
Approved 2026-01-19.
The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2026.

Prerequisites
Undergraduate degree (180 credits) of which a degree project of 15 credits.

Objectives

Knowledge and understanding
After completing the course, the student is expected to be able to:

- describe and explain different trends in the developments of Informatics as research area
- describe how different theories, methods and techniques are used in Informatics research
- analyze, account for and reflect on how information technology in general

affects people's lives on a social, organizational and individual level.

Skills and abilities
After completing the course, the student is expected to be able to:

- carry out literature search in scholarly databases to find out research relevant to Informatics
- organize and explain the findings from the above literature search
- present and discuss own work in relation to existing knowledge in Informatics.

Evaluation ability and attitude
After completing the course, the student is expected to be able to:

- describe, analyze and constructively reflect on the role of Informatics in social and societal development
- describe, analyze and reflect on own and other students' work related to Informatics research.

Content

The course focuses on current problem areas in Informatics and how different theories, approaches, methods and techniques can be used based on a scientific approach.

Course contents:

- Literature within Informatics research tradition.
- Research problems in Scientific journals related to Informatics.
- Informatics problems in the daily and specialist press.
- Relation between research problems and problems of practice.
- Search and review of literature in Informatics.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, seminars/workshops, group work and individual work as well as tutoring sessions.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E 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 (i.e. received the grade F).

Assessment of student performance is done by:

1. Individual written assignment on a chosen topic, 4.5 credits.
2. Individual written assignment - a short research proposal, 3 credits.

To obtain least grade E the student must receive E on all the different assessment Methods.

Resit examination is offered in accordance with Linnaeus University’s Local

regulations for courses and examination at the first- and second-cycle levels. 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

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:
4IK600, 7.5 hp and 4IK509, 7.5 hp

Other Information

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.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Beynon-Davies, Paul. (2020). Business Information Systems. Third Edition. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 475 pages

Digital material, such as scientific articles related to the course theme. Scope: Approximately 500 pages in total.