

DIKM01, Digital History, 7.5 credits

Digital Historia, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2024-12-09 (U 2024/888) and was last revised on 2026-02-16 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2025/47). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course. The course is compulsory in the Master's Programme in Historical Studies.

Language of instruction: Swedish

<i>Main field of study</i>	<i>Specialisation</i>
History of Ideas and Sciences	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
History	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- give an overall account of the media history of digitisation and its current and future relevance for the ABM sector (Archives, Libraries, Museums),
- explain the basic concept of digital history itself, as well as key concepts in digital history and digital humanities,

- describe and explain appropriate applications of various source materials, methods and approaches in digital history, including the distinction between digitised and digitally created material, and the limitations they impose,

Competence and skills

- apply digital history methods and tools in relation to different types of source material and historical disciplines,
- critically use historical knowledge to analyse contemporary historical digital culture, including developments in AI,
- apply theories of history and cultural studies in relation to the digitisation of cultural heritage,

Judgement and approach

- discuss the impact of digital developments on our relationship with the past, both in terms of research, collection, preservation and transmission, as well as differences and similarities in relation to information and communication technology development processes,
- independently and critically assess the practical usefulness of digital history methods and tools in relation to historical problems and issues, current research or other professional contexts where historical knowledge is relevant,
- reflect on the potential risks of commercial actors digitising our past cultural heritage and how this changes our perception of history.

Course content

The digital history course follows two main strands: one focuses on the usability of digital methods, tools and approaches – both in relation to historical and media-historical research and knowledge production. The second focuses instead on the societal aspects of digitalisation from a broader historical perspective. The course emphasises how digital sources, digitisation of cultural heritage and digital practices affect our relationship with historical knowledge, both in terms of historical research and the communication of history to a wider audience. The course also emphasises the institutional, media and policy frameworks that have encouraged and regulated the digitisation of the past as well as the digitisation of cultural heritage. The course provides an introduction to several of the platforms and databases used as interfaces for both digital history and digital cultural heritage.

Course design

Teaching on the course consists of lectures, 2-3 seminars in lab format, 1-2 group exercises and 1-2 study visits. Seminars, group exercises and study visits are compulsory.

If a student is absent from a compulsory teaching element with a valid reason, a written supplementary assignment is required according to the teacher's instructions. A supplementary assignment is an exceptional situation; if a student misses more than three sessions of the course, these sessions may be repeated the next time the course is offered.

Assessment

The course is assessed through a written invigilated exam (7,5 credits).

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

Entry requirements

General entry requirements and 90 credits, including a degree project, in digital cultures, history, history of ideas and learning or other subject with a historical focus.

Further information

- The course is offered at the Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University.
- The number of credits allocated for course content that is shared in whole or in part with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further details, see current registration and information material.